

A Closer Look at Balanced Literacy Instruction in Our Classroom



		Reading	Writing	Speaking	Listening	Word Study	Mastering Mechanics
I	Modeled	Teacher reads aloud and engages students, thinks aloud using skills and strategies	Teacher writes piece and models strategies and skills	Teacher models expressive language strategies and skills	Teacher models receptive language strategies and skills	Teacher models using skills, such as phoneme blending or segmenting, etc.	Teacher models grammar usage on document camera
WE	Shared Practice	Teacher reads enlarged text and students join in reading	Class writes pieces together with teaching coaching of skills and strategies	Students have discussions in small groups with teacher support	Students take turns listening in small groups with teacher support	As a class, students use Smart board, or other activity, to practice skills, with teacher support	Class revises/edit writes pieces together with teaching coaching
WE	Guided Practice	Small group with teacher coaching individually and students naming and claiming	Writing workshop activities in small groups	Orally share story ideas with a partner at writing station	Students take turns listening in small groups	Students practice skills with a partner or small group at ABC/word study work station	Peer editing/revision
YOU	Independent Practice	Student independently reads to self or partner (leveled book) and references bookmark or anchor charts	Independently work on writing literacy work station activities	Orally share book review or ideas with classmates	Students use receptive language strategies and skills	Students independently use word study skills and strategies	Independently work on grammar practice work station activities

Balanced Literacy Framework

These are examples of balanced literacy instruction and not an extensive list. The purpose of sharing these examples is to give you, as the parent, an idea of what balanced literacy looks like in our classroom. As you can see, it follows the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model across the balanced literacy framework. This means the instruction follows: I - WE - YOU model, as shown above.

Credit: M. Wunderlich