

Teachers' ChoiceSM Award for the Classroom 2012

Below you will find the comments for your product. As you read the comments, please note that this is the literal text from the evaluation forms. We have not differentiated comments between the teachers on each team. Although we encourage teachers to provide comments, it is not a requirement. Therefore, you may notice if you had multiple entries, the responses may be more or less in depth depending on the team of teachers. **We do not use comments in the scoring process.** They are provided as insight into the panel's thoughts on your product.

We hope you find the responses helpful and continue to participate in the Teachers' Choice Awards in the future. Applications will be available in January 2012 for the 19th Annual Teachers' ChoiceSM Awards program.

Product Key - 2922

Product - Reading in Style: Differentiated Reading Activities for Fiction, Nonfiction, and Poetry

Company - Silver Strong & Associates

What aspects of this product did you like most?

The current research, the emphasis on Gardner's multiple intelligence research, reproducible activities to use in the classroom that reach all learners, the emphasis on learning and reading styles. It was easy to read - not wordy, had a large font, straightforward.

I liked that it was very easy to use! The differentiated strategies were very helpful in today's diverse classrooms. I appreciated that this book was an "easy and quick" read. It felt good to be able to open up any page and find a little tip that could improve my teaching. As the title states, this book truly differentiated learning and could be adapted into most classrooms. The connection to multiple intelligences was key for me. Again, another way for true differentiation to occur. Using this book truly would assist a teacher in getting to know a students learning and reading needs and would support a teacher in fulfilling those needs.

I love how this book focuses on how reading is a "deeply personal act". The task rotations for fiction, non-fiction and poetry are great to use with the students. The reproducibles are really directed towards engaging students in their reading.

It was a quick reference tool and easy to read. I liked the layout of the chapters. The information was teacher friendly and opened you up to new strategies and ideas.

The ideas in the book are amazing and I can't wait to use more of them next year. I also like how full size copies are available on the website.

How would this product need to improve to better support your curriculum?

I saw nothing to improve upon. I love this book!!!!

I have no suggestions as this book was wonderful.

I know the additional printable resources were available online, but for me, it is always a challenge to take the time to find those. Even if the book needed to be a little larger and cost a little more, I would have liked those resources to be included in the book. Most of the resources were geared toward around 2nd grade and up (when using independently). As a kindergarten teacher, I would have liked some choices for K-1. Even some task rotations that had more pictures to show how students needed to respond so non readers could respond about a book read a loud to them.

This book is geared towards older kids. It would be great if they could create some task rotations that are geared towards beginning readers who are just learning to read, because the strategies in this book are great for young learners as well!

A cd with the BLM would have been helpful. I understand you can download them from the website, but having it all together instead of having to search for it is always helpful.

Honestly this is my favorite thing so far and I can't think of a way to improve it.

How did you make use of the product, or integrate it into your lesson plans?

I read the book and shared it with my administration. I would love to see this book used as a school-wide book study. I used the "What a character" page with upper grade students when teaching characterization.

I used several of the lessons provided with different groups in my classroom.

I used this product in small groups of higher level students. Students completed surveys and used the task rotations during our readers' workshop time. I also used parts of the book to create student self evaluations and

reading "menus". There were several other tips to glean from the book that I could integrate into my readers workshop mini lessons.

I ended up modifying several of the lessons to fit in with my kindergarten literacy curriculum.

I used it to help change up reading groups within my classroom.

We did the activity on page 42, Readers take action which my students really enjoyed doing. The students are able to do different activities which covers every learning style.

What skills did your students learn from this product?

Reading for purpose, discovering character traits on their own.

They learned different styles of literature and how to comprehend them.

My students learned comprehension skills such as connections, mental images, inferring, comparing and contrasting, parts of a story, synthesizing, questioning, and predicting. They also learned about multiple intelligences and learned about themselves as a reader. They learned how they could better support themselves as a reader and thinker.

I think that it got them thinking creatively as well as helped expose them to different genres.

They learned different strategies and ways to make reading more interesting based on their learning styles.

My students learned how to do different activities for reading. They were able to draw pictures to illustrate things that they read.

If funds were available, would you recommend this product to another teacher at the appropriate grade/age level? Please explain why or why not.

YES!!! It is practical, easy to use, research-based. It is not just another book study book that we read and put away on the shelf. Mine is already looking "well-read" as I refer to it often. I have always been a Gardner and a learning styles fan. I've used strategies from both in the classroom throughout the years with more success than any "bandwagon" I've jumped on. I look forward to implementing the activities from this book next year.

I would definitely recommend this to any teacher. The differentiated strategies helped make sure all of my students were getting what they needed to learn about different styles of literature. It was very engaging for them all!

Yes, at the second grade level and up in elementary school, I am certain this book would support young learners in a meaningful way. By using the strategies in this book, learning becomes extremely authentic. Worksheets with contrived answers don't open the minds of readers, but the activities in this book do! It would be helpful to both new and experienced teachers alike. The activities included are very multi-level and would certainly meet the needs of all learners in a hands-on, engaging way.

I think this is great and would recommend it to all 2nd grade and up elementary teachers! The lessons are fun and engaging!

Yes: It is a great reference tool. It is age and grade level appropriate.

Yes I love this book and I would recommend this book to everyone. The ideas are amazing and I can't wait to use it more.