

# Quick Tips for Common Core-Focused Guided Reading

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1. Use a variety of assessments including anecdotal notes to drive instructional next steps.
2. Get to know your students' interests and their specific literacy learning needs.
3. Select texts carefully. Texts for guided reading should be slightly challenging so children have to apply strategies to construct meaning. Leveled books are great, but don't forget to harness the power of poetry, informational texts, magazine or newspaper articles, short stories, and excerpts of books!
4. Maintain balance among the different teaching contexts including read aloud, shared reading, guided reading, and independent reading.
5. Thread the Common Core Standard you are teaching during whole class instruction into your guided reading discussion.
6. Focus on teaching reading strategies *as a means* for understanding complex texts.
7. Observe, coach, and prompt students as they apply decoding, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary strategies. Guided reading provides the best opportunity to scaffold students who are having difficulty applying the Common Core Standard during independent reading.
8. Integrate guided word study and guided writing into your guided reading lessons.
9. Enlist the help of interested adults to work with other students while you're meeting with groups.
10. Enjoy your readers!

