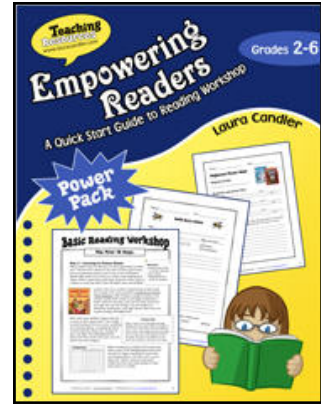


# Empowering Readers Success Stories

Empowering Readers: A Quick Start Guide to Reading Workshop is a step-by-step guide to a powerful method for teaching reading. I did not invent the reading workshop approach, but I did create a unique system that makes the reading workshop super-easy to implement. I developed this guide based on my own classroom experiences as a 4th and 5th grade teacher, and then I began field-testing the materials with a wide variety of grades 2 through 6 teachers worldwide. I modified the program based on their feedback, and together we created an awesome resource for teachers. I'd like to share with you some of the heart-warming success stories I've received about their experiences with the Empowering Readers program. If your students have not yet experienced the joys of reading, these stories will inspire you to try a new approach! To learn more about the Empowering Readers program and preview the entire book online, visit [www.lauracandler.com/erlc.php](http://www.lauracandler.com/erlc.php).  
~ Laura Candler, Author



## Creating Successful Lifelong Readers

“As more and more research proves, reading just-right books is an important part of creating successful lifelong readers. Laura Candler has written a detailed guide for how to begin a Reading Workshop approach in the classroom. Her publication gives detailed suggestions of how to get started with Reading Workshop, and great literature to use in the classroom to teach strategies for comprehension of text. I love all of the simple forms she includes to accompany the program and the easy to implement approach to using the program in my classroom. Students enjoy an active role in every part of the program. Her suggestions for guided reading groups and mini lessons are creative and easily adaptable. This is an amazing resource!”  
~ Kristi Swartz, Loveland, OH



## Life-Changing Resource

“Thank you, Laura, for giving us this life-changing teaching resource. Empowering Readers has not only dramatically increased reading scores, but engages all readers, encourages the weaker readers, pushes stronger readers, stimulates conversations about books, and has demystified reading workshop for me as a fifth grade teacher. ER is a great guide and has allowed me to integrate the school basal, as well as any number of extra mini-lessons. Can't wait to see the new publication about "Book Clubs." Thanks again, Laura. You are a teacher for teachers!”  
~ Sue McKernan, Rochester, NY

### **Enlightened by Empowering Readers Learning Community**

“Being a part of the Empowering Readers Learning Community has been such an enlightening experience for me. I was involved from the beginning, and I began a pilot of the Empowering Reader's approach midyear last year. I was teaching 4th graders, and found the materials to be perfect for my class. Being a part of the group allowed me to ask questions as I went and get ideas from Laura and other teachers. Laura was great about responding to questions and modifying her book to address the various issues members of the group had as they tested out the program. I was amazed at the growth my students demonstrated in their reading. I was most pleased with the passion my students began to show for reading. They begged for Reading Workshop time and were disappointed if we were ever unable to have it. To top it all off, my students increased their reading speed and comprehension by the end of the year, and some of my struggling readers made the biggest gains. It was a huge hit!”

~ Jewelia Oswald, Topeka, KS



### **ELL Students Cheer for Extra Reading Time!**

“I have to admit I was hesitant to begin using Reading Workshop. I teach ELL and have many struggling readers. How could these kids who need intensive decoding and comprehension help improve with just prolonged reading? Most kids who struggle with reading don't want to read and find ways to distract themselves during reading time. Even with these reservations, I began using your strategies last year. I saw a gain not only in my student's reading abilities but also their love for reading. Hooked, I began this school year with Reading Workshop. My students moan when we do not do Reading Workshop and cheer when I throw in extra time. It has taken some training, especially for the response notebooks and self-accountability. I have seen enormous growth in my students already this school year, hundreds of Lexile points in just four months. More importantly, they are hooked on literature. They connect across the curriculum and are aware of their own metacognition. I look forward to fine tuning my own spin on Reading Workshop for next year and lighting a fire for learning in another group of students.”

~ Rebecca Barta, Killeen, TX, 3rd grade ELL



### **Kids Talk About Reading Outside of School!**

“First, I would like to say that I have greatly appreciated being a part of the Empowering Readers Community...I may not have posted regularly but I have read daily posts and have been impressed with the positive attitude and willingness to share successful strategies by the members. It has been refreshing and uplifting to read (hear?) that teachers do what is right for children and not just what is prescribed.....and most importantly NO COMPLAINING! I am teaching fourth grade after nine years in fifth...and teaching all subjects so this year has been a challenging year in regards to organization and preparing

For 7 daily preps!!! In December we read *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and focused on character analysis using your book...WOW! My students were so excited about the story that they were talking about the book at home with their families! (A FIRST! - to talk about reading outside of school!) What a surprised when many of my students found out that their parents had read the book when they were in fourth or fifth grade! The students selected a character to focus on while reading the story – the best part was these characters became real people because when discussing details from the book students would defend or argue as if they knew their character. ....which they did through reading!!!! Again thank you for providing guidance with readers workshop “nuts and bolts” so that my students are true ‘readers’ and not pretend readers!"

~ Debby Hickey, MaED, NBCT – 2000, 4th Grade, Johnston County, North Carolina



### **Yearly Reading Goal Met By January**

“This year I chose reading as my Individual Professional Development Plan. I started using Readers’ Workshop at the beginning of this school year with my upper elementary students, half of whom are special ed. kids. My students love reading and ask for more time in class to read. Parent feedback tells me that students that never used to like reading now choose to read more at home. Just last week my students took their second Scholastic Reading Inventory of the year and EVERY student showed growth, with some growing as much as 1.5 – 2 years in only 5 months. The biggest jump in reading was from one of my E.S.E. 4th grade boys who jumped 213 points on his S.R.I. I don’t know if you do S.R.I. tests in North Carolina, but if you do, you know that is a very significant gain. My students have already passed my IPDP goal of having 25% of my lowest students showing a year of growth, and it is only January. At the end of the year, I plan to ask my school to get a site license for Empowering Readers, just as they did for the Daily Math Puzzlers. From a teaching perspective, Reading Workshop is the most relaxing and enjoyable way I have ever taught reading. Thank you, Laura, for another superior product.”

~ Linda Schuman, West Palm Beach, FL, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Inclusion (over 50% special needs)



### **Kids Love Reading!**

“We are in the early stages of the Empowering Reading program, and I try to find time for us to read for pleasure every day. My students have brought in their pillows and blankets, and beg me daily for reading time! I never thought I would hear fifth graders tell me that they want to read. I am stocking up my classroom library, trying to keep up with all of their interests. I made sure to have a wide range of reading levels, so my high and low readers all can enjoy our reading time. I also plan on setting up a listening center so my low level readers can enjoy high level books during our reading time. Thanks for all the helpful information and tips on how to start this program in the classroom. I was delighted when the test scores came back on our last Open Court unit test – there was a huge jump in the comprehension scores! I can’t wait to try more aspects of Laura’s program.”

~ Francie Kugelman, Los Angeles, CA, 5th Grade