

The Knowledge Gap: Why Our Approach to Boosting Reading Comprehension Isn't Working—and How to Change It

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Ohio Literacy Academy

February 20, 2020

The Income-Based Gap in Test Scores Has Either Grown ...

EDUCATION

Education Gap Grows Between Rich and Poor, Studies Say

By SABRINA TAVERNISE FEB. 9, 2012

WASHINGTON — Education was historically considered a great equalizer in American society, capable of lifting less advantaged children and improving their chances for success as adults. But a body of recently published scholarship suggests that the achievement gap between rich and poor children is widening, a development that threatens to dilute education's leveling effects.

It is a well-known fact that children from affluent families tend to do better in school. Yet the income divide has received far less attention from policy makers and government officials than gaps in student accomplishment by race.

Now, in analyses of long-term data published in recent months, researchers are finding that while the achievement gap between white and black students has narrowed significantly over the past few decades, the gap between rich and poor students has grown substantially during the same period.

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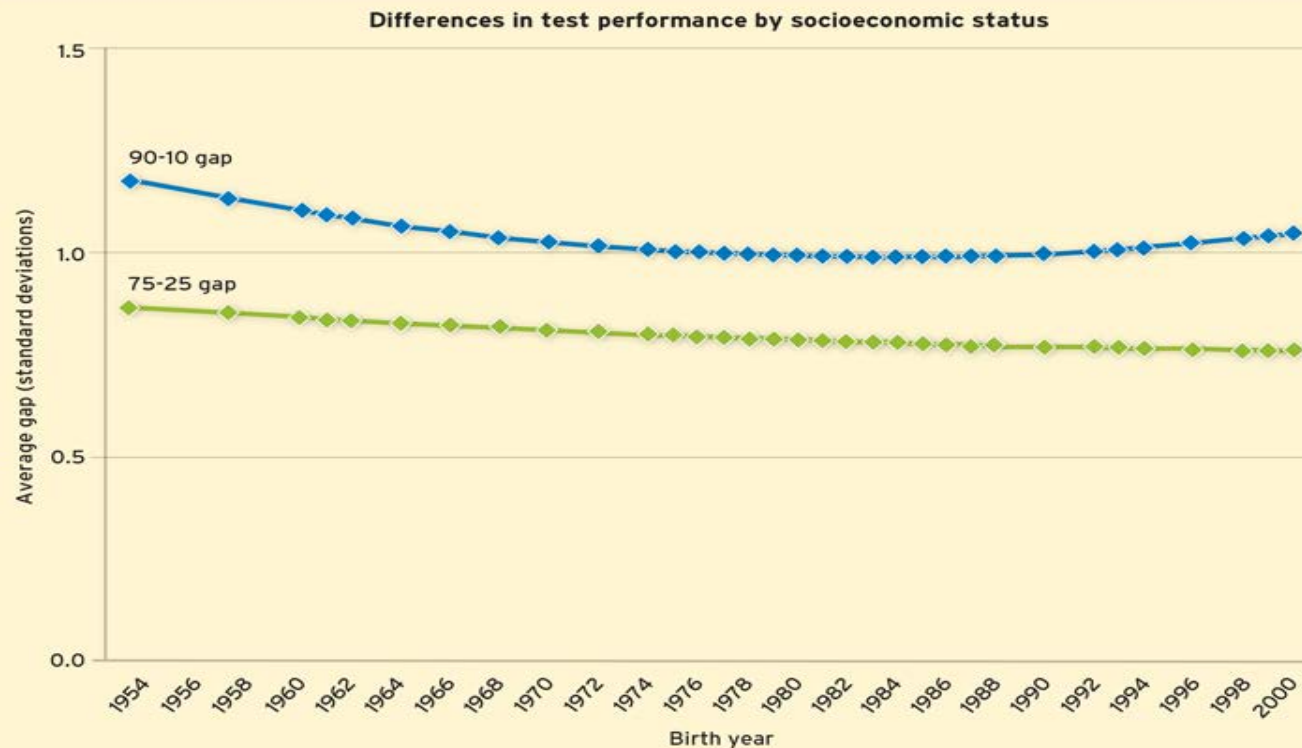
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income. It...

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W...

... Or Just Stayed the Same

A Persistent Achievement Gap between Haves and Have Nots (Figure 1)

For students born between 1954 and 2001, the achievement gap between students in the top and bottom deciles of the socioeconomic distribution remained as wide as a full standard deviation—the equivalent of three to four years of learning. The gap between students in the top and bottom quartiles also persisted over this near half century.



NOTE: Markers indicate years a test was administered.

SOURCE: Tests administered by LTT-NAEP, Main-NAEP, PISA, and TIMSS



The “Problem”: High School



The “Bright Spot”: Elementary School



READING

- Decoding

Foundational skills:

Phonemic Awareness

Phonics

Fluency

- Comprehension

Skills & Strategies

Skills

Identify Main Idea & Details
Determine Author's Purpose
Identify Cause & Effect
Classify & Categorize
Compare & Contrast
Draw Conclusions
Determine Fact & Opinion
Describe Figurative Language
Identify Genre
Describe Plot
Identify the Point of View
Make Predictions
Sequence Events
Describe Story Structure
Identify Explicit Information in Non-Fiction Text
Determine Theme
Summarize

Strategies

Make Connections
Ask Questions
Make Inferences
Visualize
Determine Important Information
Monitor Comprehension
Understand Text Structure

Note: In my research, I couldn't find a difference between Make Inferences and Draw Conclusions, where one person defined them one way, another has defined them the opposite way. Most of the research leans toward using the term Make Inferences as a Comprehension Strategy and Draw Conclusions as a skill. I have included both in this packet with similar graphic organizers.

Progress Monitoring by Instructional Text Reading Level

GRADE	MONTHS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
K	-	-	-	A	A/B	B	B	C	C	C
1	C/D	D	E	E/F	F	G	G/H	H	I	I
2	I/J	J	J	J/K	K	K/L	L	L	M	M
3	M/N	N	N	N	O	O	O	P	P	P
4	P/Q	Q	Q	Q	R	R	R	S	S	S
5	S/T	T	T	T	U	U	U	V	V	V
6	V/W	W	W	W	X	X	X	X	Y	Y
7	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y/Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z
8	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z
9-12	Z	Z	Z	Z+	Z+	Z+	Z+	Z+	Z+	Z+

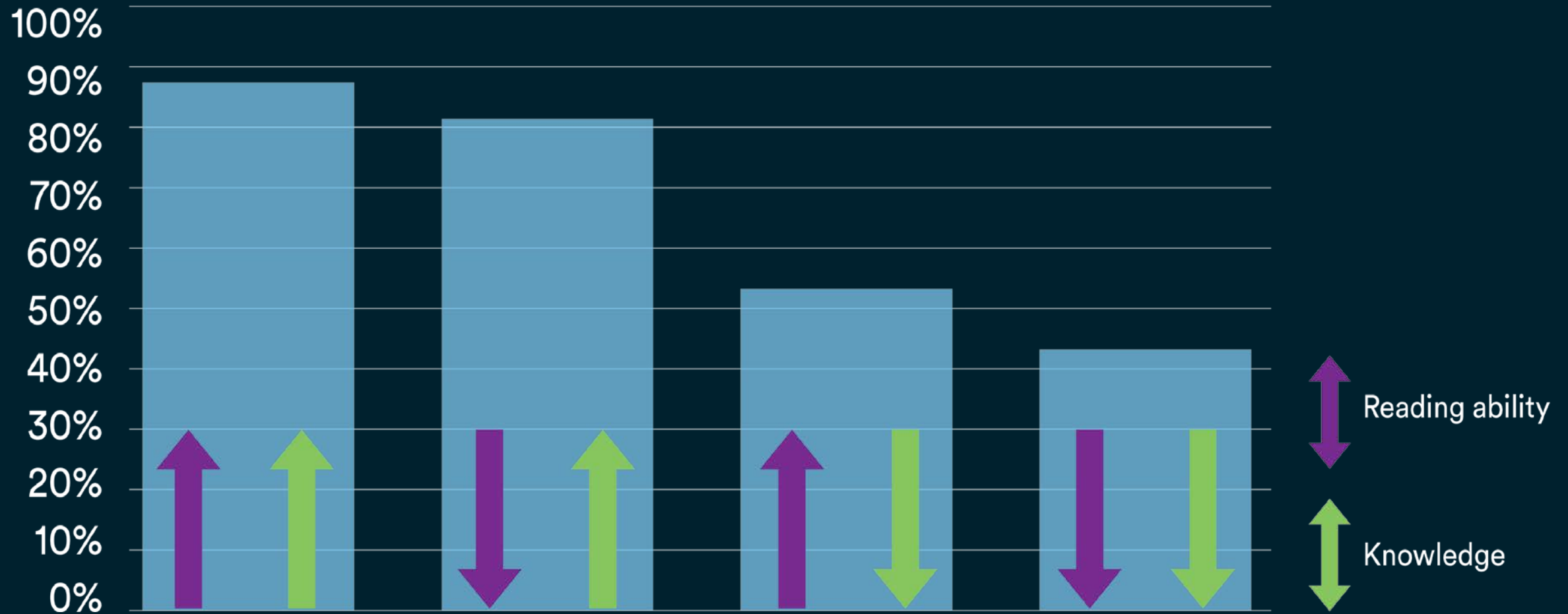
Leveled Reading

FIND THE MAIN IDEA

Much depended on the two overnight batsmen. But this duo perished either side of lunch—the latter a little unfortunate to be adjudged leg-before—and with Andrew Symonds, too, being shown the dreaded finger off an inside edge, the inevitable beckoned, bar the pyrotechnics of Michael Clarke and the ninth wicket.

THE BASEBALL STUDY

Measure of Comprehension





A moa builds a nest because it is a bird.
The moa looked in his nest
and found his hat.



A kona eats seeds because it is a bird.
The kona looked in his bucket of seeds
and found his hat.



A moa builds a hive because it is a wug
The moa looked in his hive
and found his hat.

FIND THE MAIN IDEA

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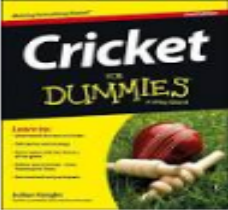
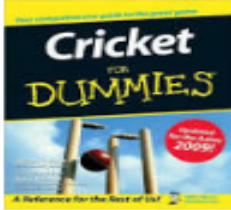

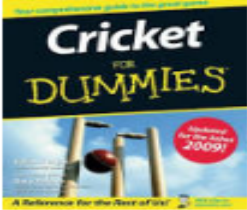
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Cricket For Dummies Cheat Sheet - dummies

<https://www.dummies.com> > sports > cricket-for-... ▾

Cricket is basically a simple sport. Each team takes its turn to bat (scoring runs) and bowl (getting the opposition batsmen out). The team with the most runs at the ...

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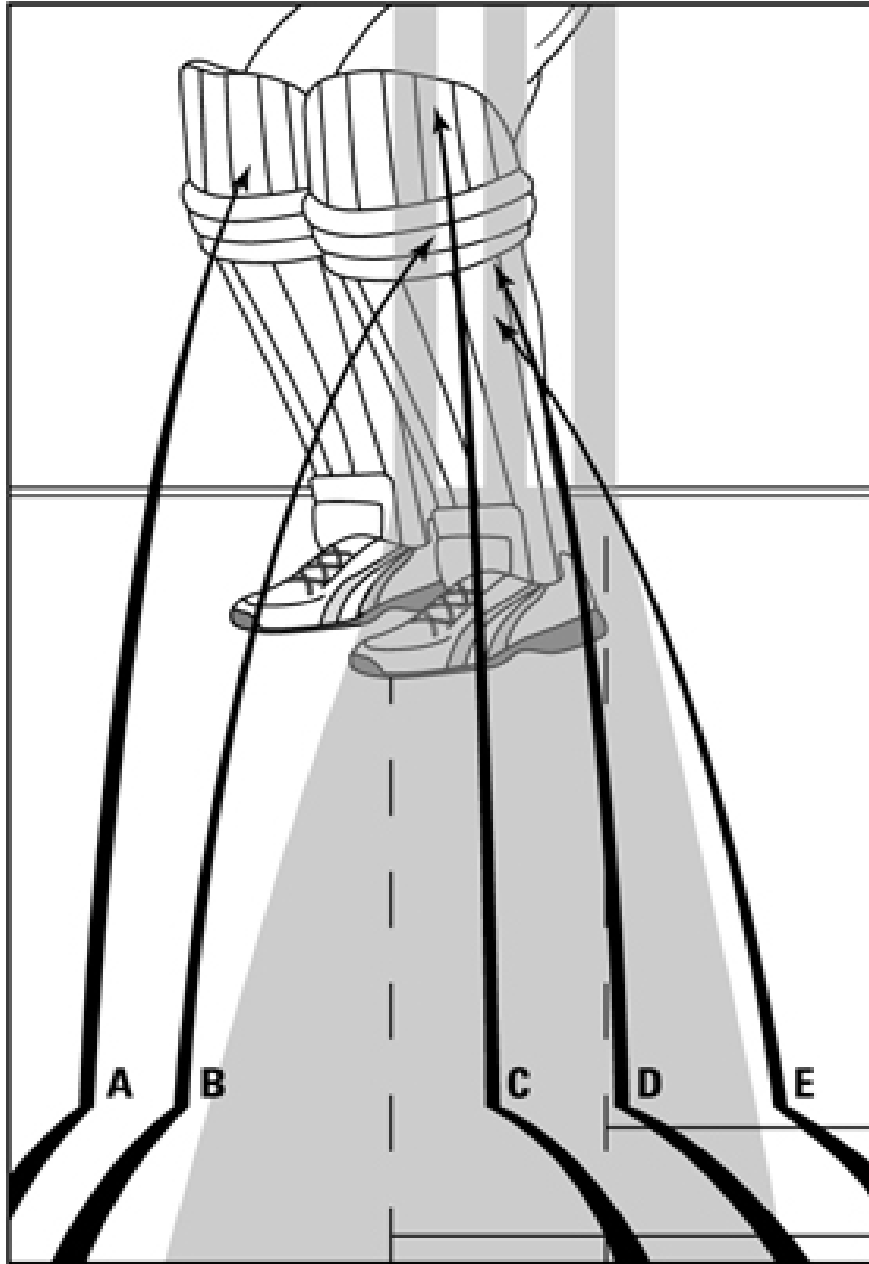
FIND THE MAIN IDEA

Much depended on the two overnight batsmen. But this duo perished either side of lunch—the latter a little unfortunate to be adjudged leg-before—and with Andrew Symonds, too, being shown the dreaded finger off an inside edge, the inevitable beckoned, bar the pyrotechnics of Michael Clarke and the ninth wicket.

“leg-before”?

The LBW Law Made Simple

For a batsman in a cricket match to be given out leg before wicket (LBW) a strict set of rules apply, to do with where the ball has struck the pitch and then hit the batsman's pad. This figure takes you through all the possibilities.



A - Not out. Ball striking pad outside line of stumps. Ball would not have hit stumps.

B - Out only if the batsman did not play a shot. Ball pitched outside the line of off-stump.

C - Out, if the umpire feels the ball would have hit the stumps and not missed the top.

D - Out. Ball pitching on line of leg stump, and would have hit the stumps.

E - Not out. Ball pitched outside the line of the leg stump.

Line of leg stump

Line of off stump

Ways of getting out: Leg before wicket

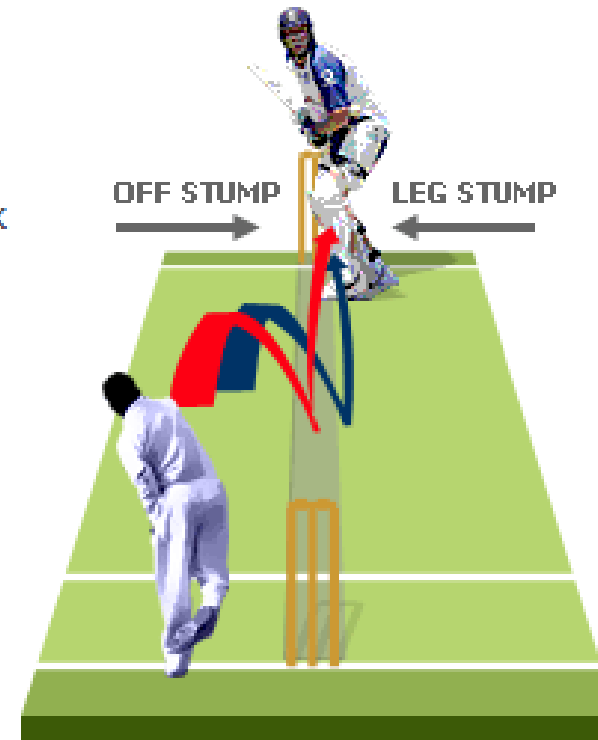
The leg before wicket (lbw) law is to Leg before wicket cricket what the offside rule is to football - confusing.

However, you do not need a PhD from Oxford or Cambridge University to work it out - just this simple guide.

The umpire will consider an lbw decision if he believes the ball would have hit the stumps had it not been obstructed by the batsman's pads.

But the umpire also has to take other factors into consideration.

- ▶ [Our full, illustrated guide to the lbw law](#)



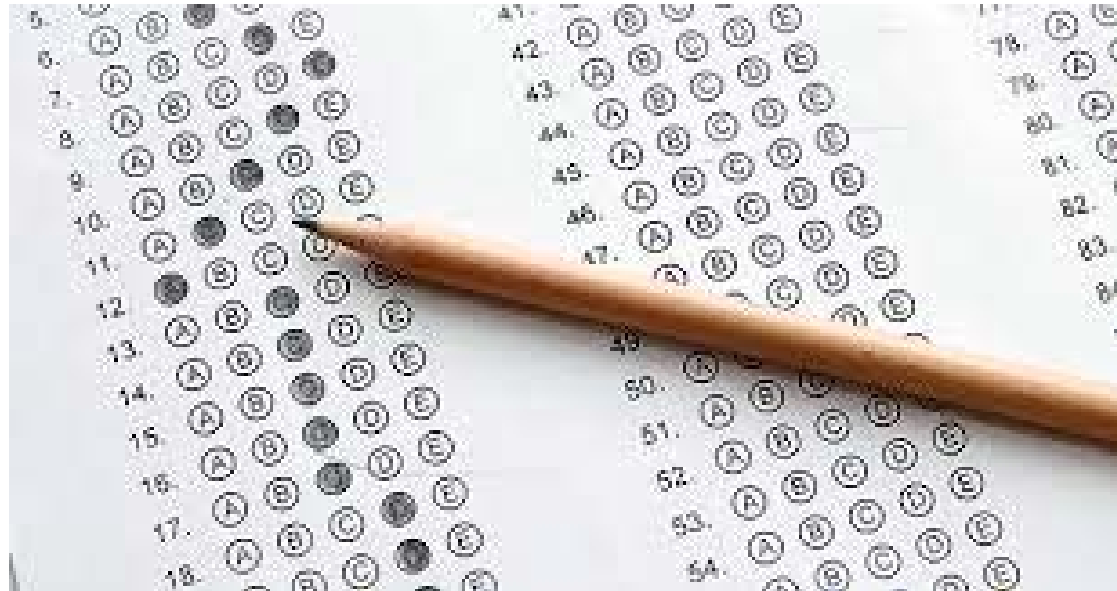
- OUT: ball has pitched and struck pad in front of the stumps
- NOT OUT: ball has pitched outside leg stump

What Knowledge Do You Draw On to Understand a Newspaper Article?

“Two appeals by the president, in his private capacity and represented by private lawyers, have reached the Supreme Court in the past week. One, *Trump v. Vance*, is a formal appeal from a ruling by the federal appeals court in New York upholding the validity of a grand jury subpoena obtained by the Manhattan district attorney, Cyrus Vance, and served on the president’s accountants for his personal and business tax records.”

From Linda Greenhouse, “Can the Supreme Court Save Itself?”, NYT 11.24.19

What Does This Have to Do with Testing?





The Narrowing Curriculum

- Reading
- Math
- Social Studies
- The Arts
- Science

Passage from 3rd Grade PARCC Test

In one of the most remote places in the world, the Canadian Arctic, a people have survived over a thousand years. They are the Inuit. For the Inuit, the Arctic is a place teeming with life. Depending on how far north they live, the Inuit find everything from caribou herds and polar bears to beluga whales.

In one of the most [redacted] places in the world, the [redacted], a people have [redacted] over a [redacted] years. They are the [redacted]. For the [redacted], the [redacted] is a place [redacted] with life. Depending on how far north they live, the [redacted] find everything from [redacted] and [redacted] to [redacted].

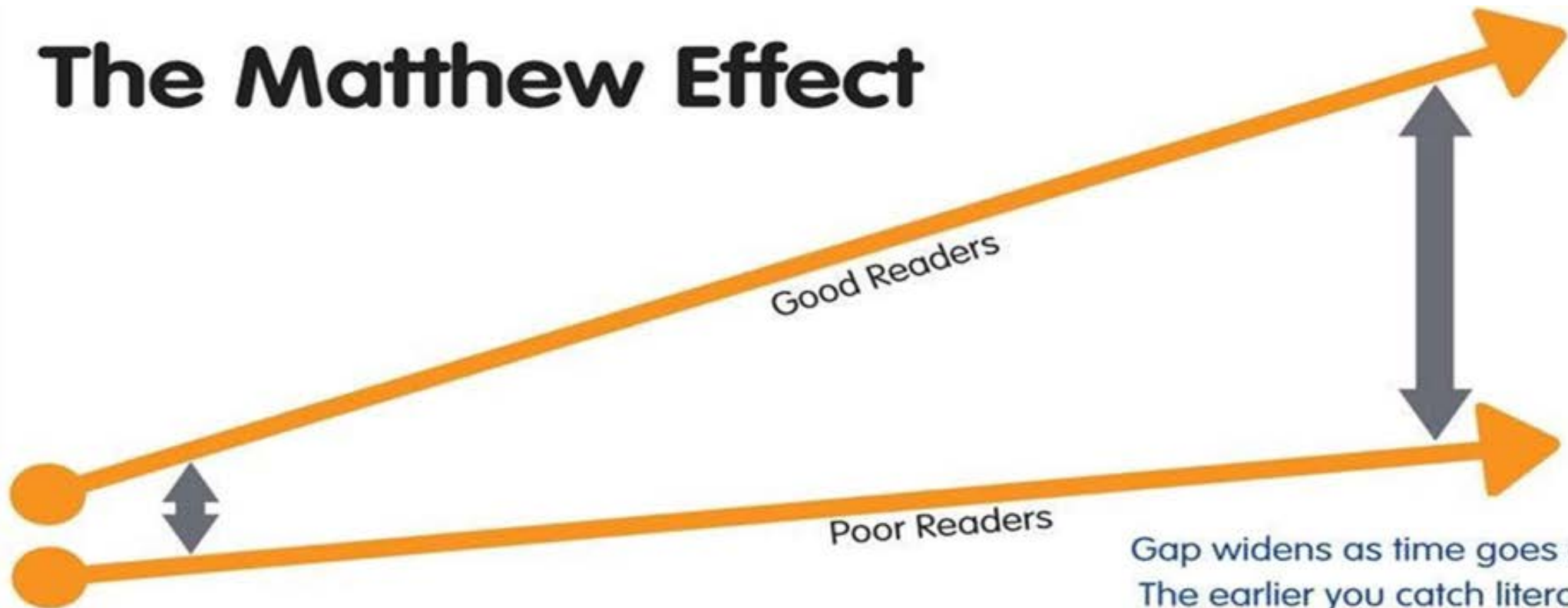
What Does This Have to Do with High School?



Knowledge Is
Like Velcro

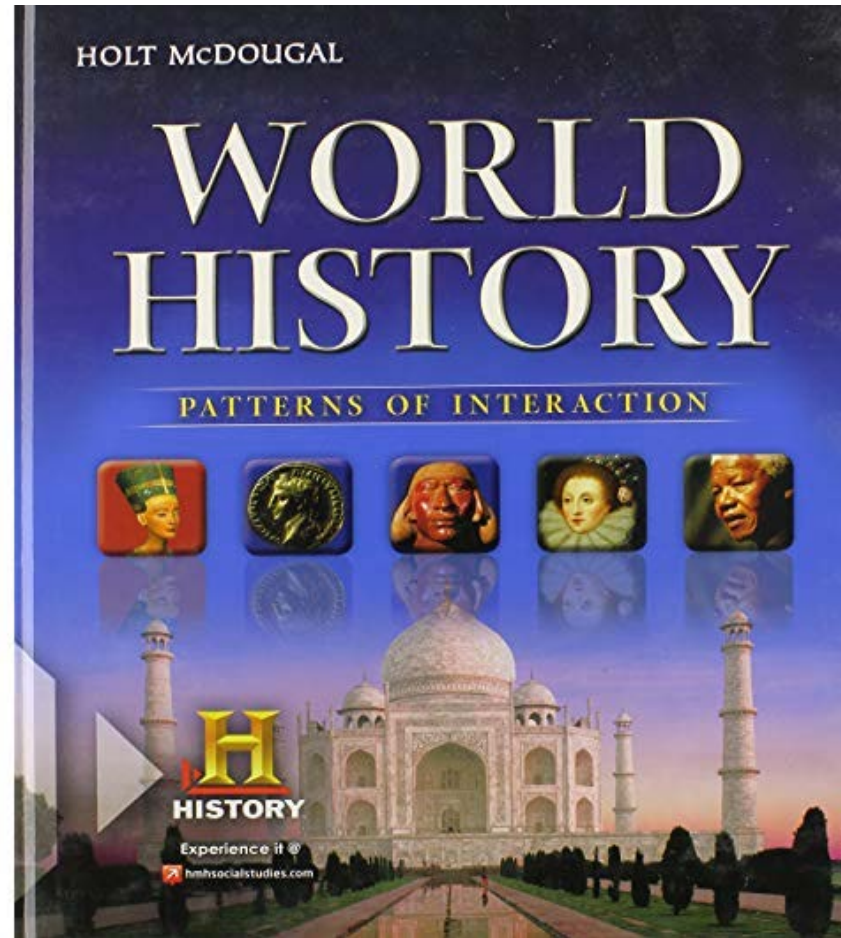


The Matthew Effect



Gap widens as time goes on.
The earlier you catch literacy difficulties, the less there is to fix.

The Other Gap:
The difference between what we assume high school students know and what many do know



"This critical volume, in which Natalie Wexler deftly lays out the case for knowledge, should begin tipping the scales back toward what best serves students of every age and background."

—BOB LEMOV, author of *TEACH LIKE A CHAMPION 2.0*

The Knowledge GAP

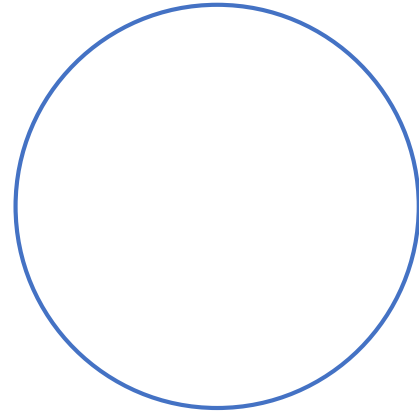


**THE HIDDEN CAUSE
OF AMERICA'S BROKEN
EDUCATION SYSTEM—
AND HOW TO FIX IT**

Natalie Wexler

Where did this *come* from?

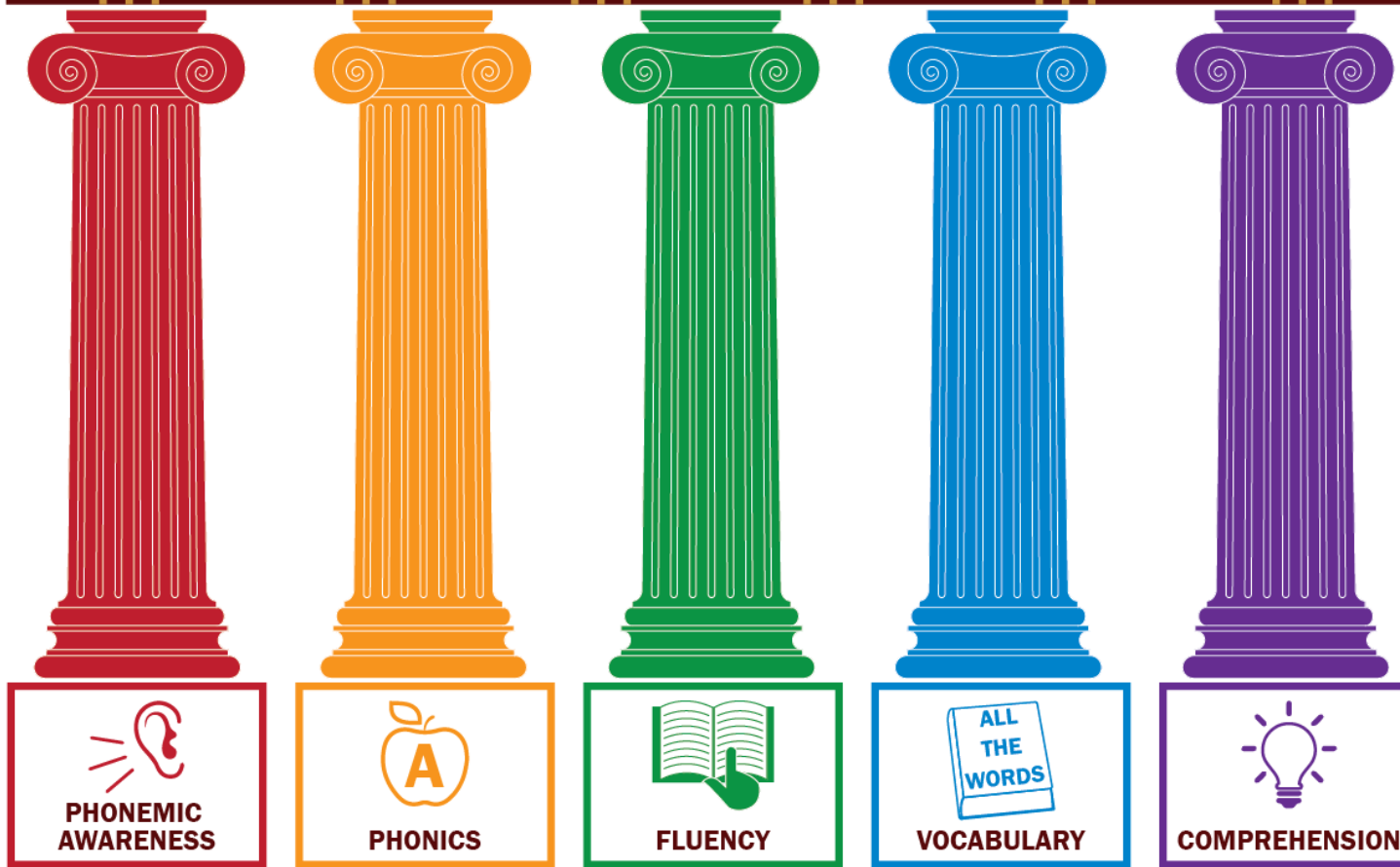




**John Dewey, 1859-1952:
Father of the Progressive
Education Movement**

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Pillars of Early Literacy

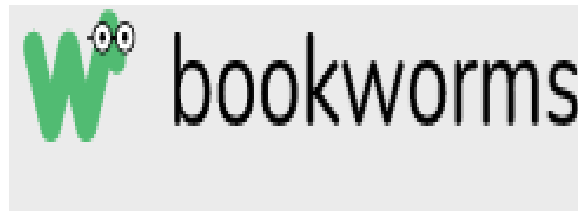
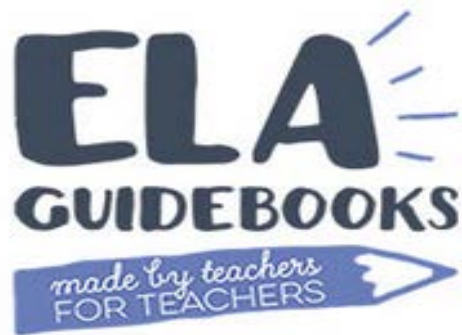


The National Reading Panel

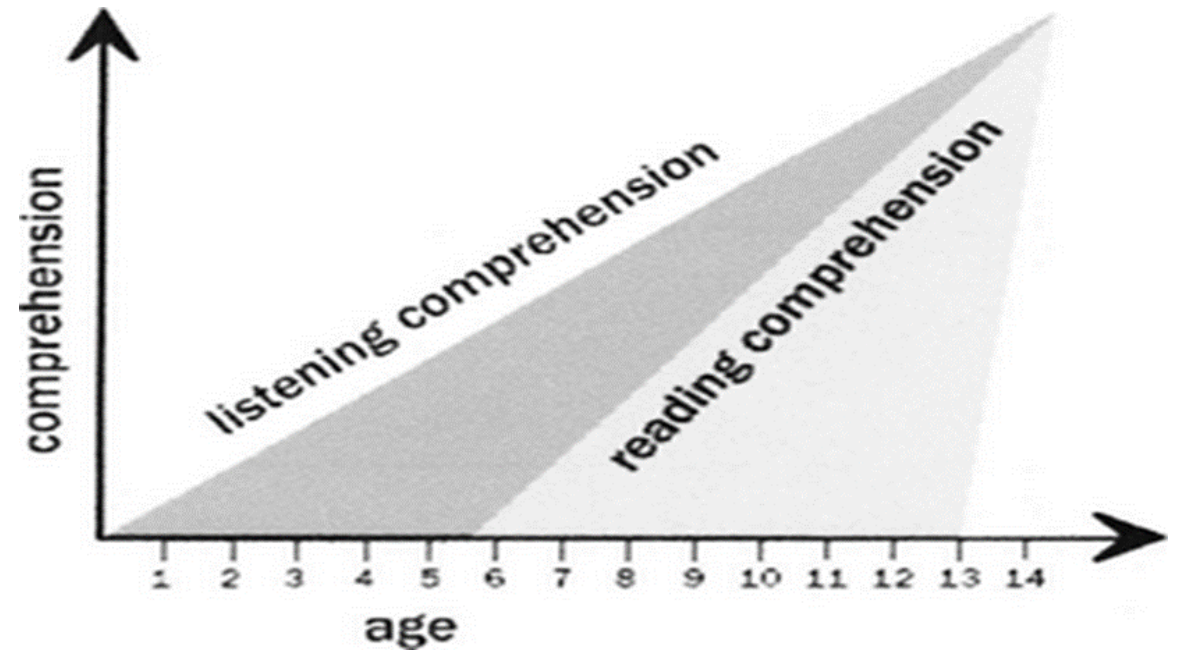
Where can we go from here?



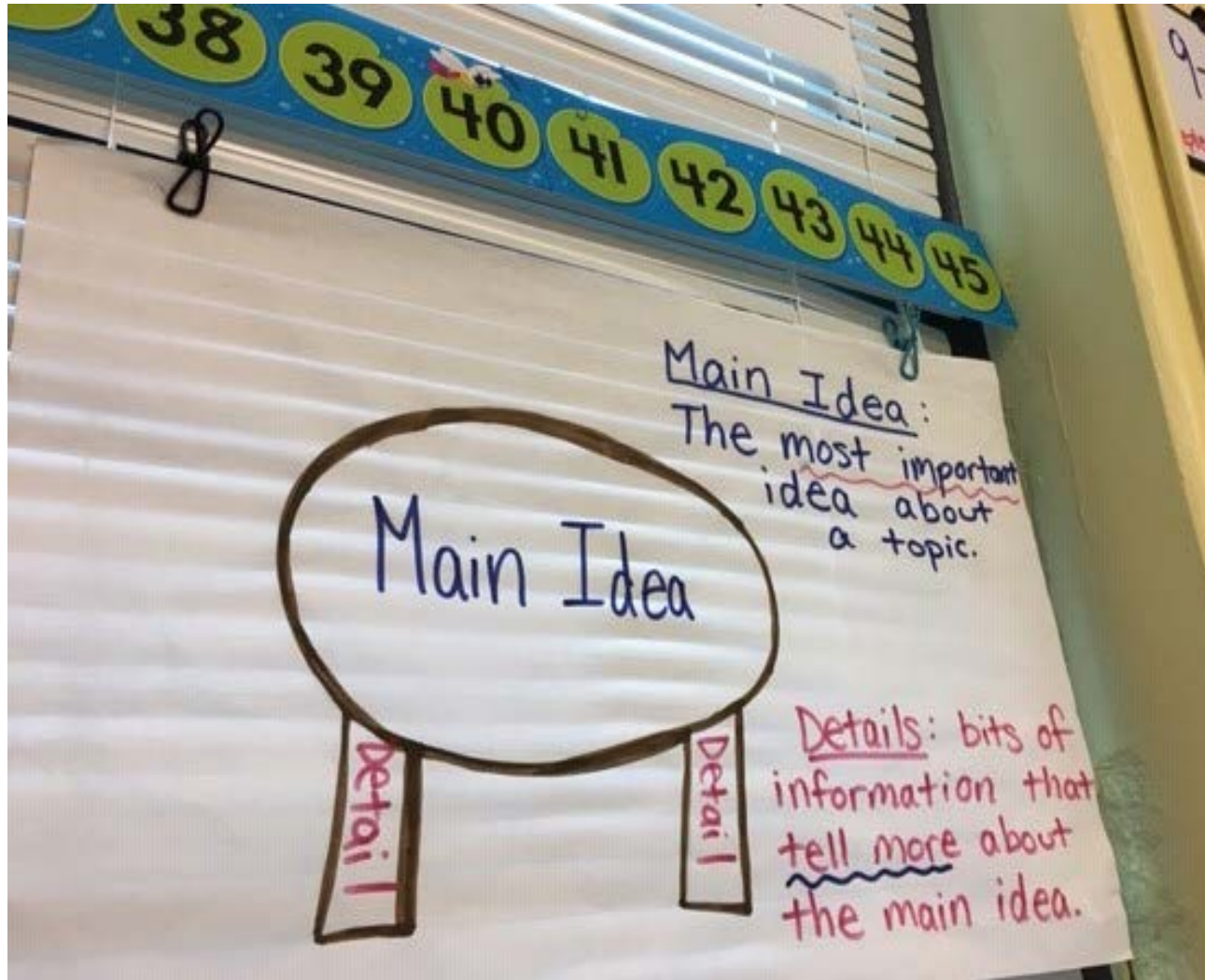
New content-focused literacy curricula



Listening
Comprehension
Exceeds Reading
Comprehension



A tale of two classrooms



Daedalus and Icarus

What happened because Icarus did not use foresight?

desperately plummeted
wildly with panic to fall straight down

Foresight means thinking ahead.

CAUSE	EFFECT
King Minos was upset with Daedalus for helping Theseus defeat the Minotaur.	King Minos locked Daedalus and his son up in a high tower. (F!)

Since you helped Theseus escape, I will lock you and your son Icarus up!

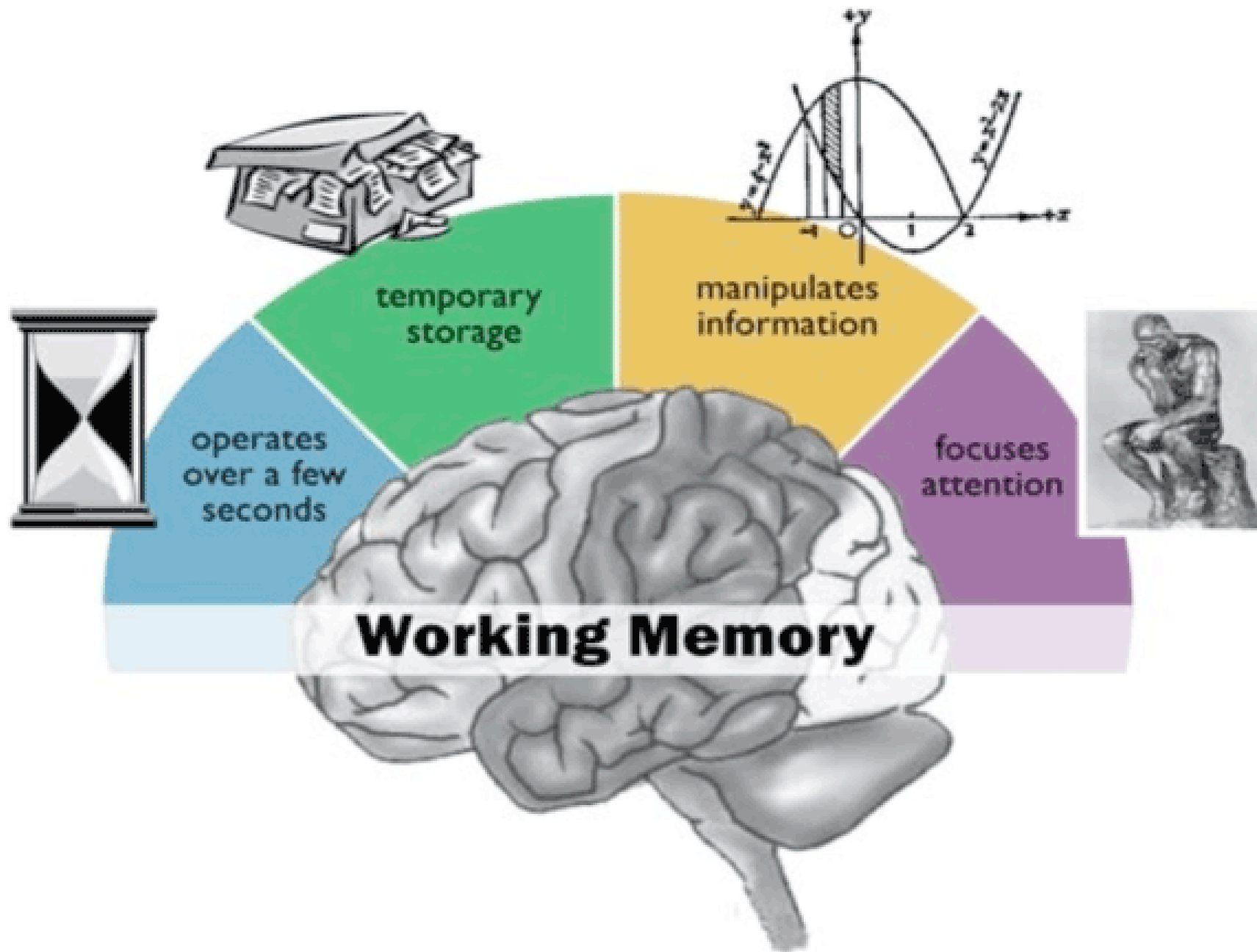
PREDICT: What is Daedalus' plan?...

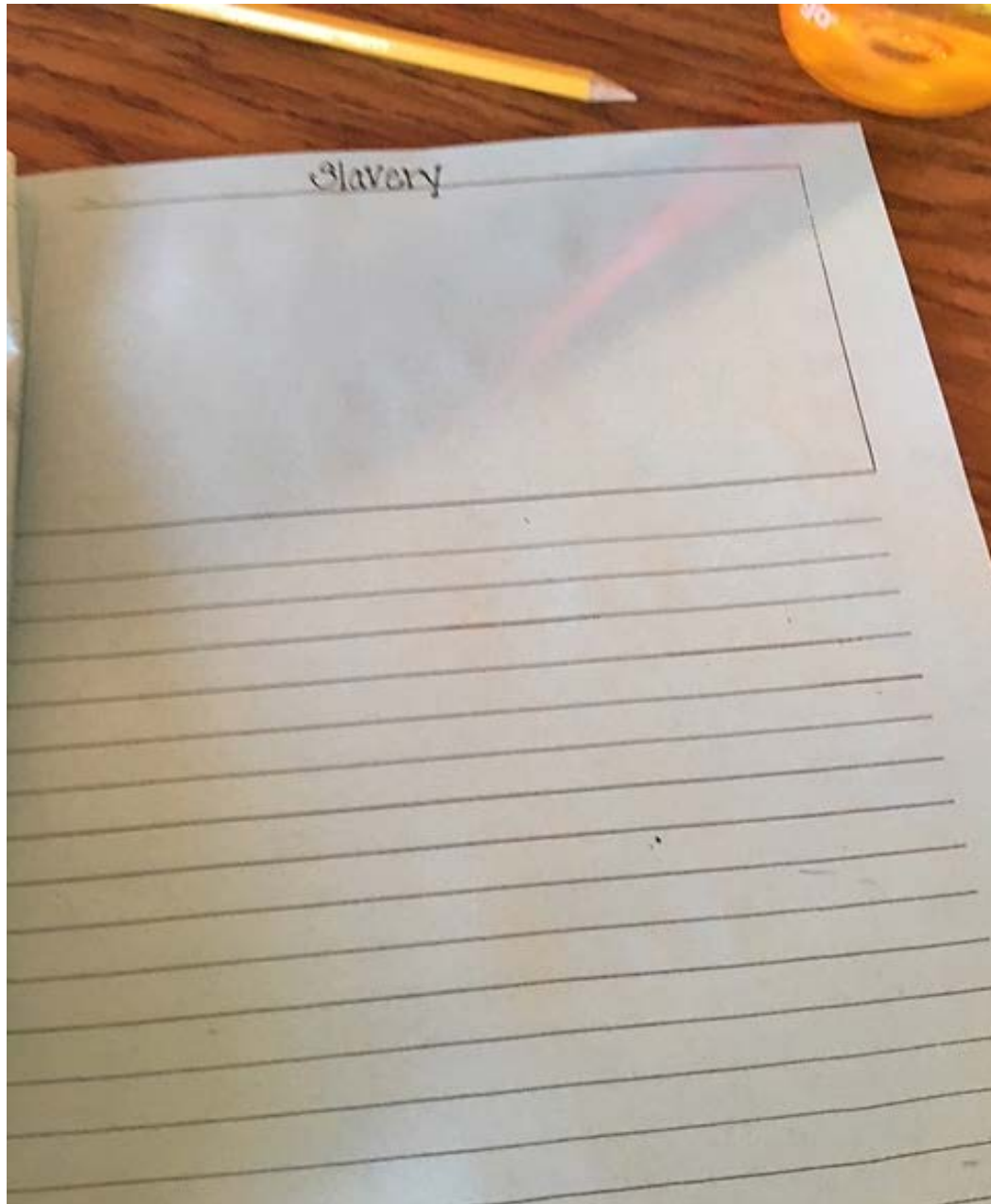
CAUSE (—happened)	EFFECT (—so—)
Daedalus convinces the soldiers to bring them food and candles. (F!)	Daedalus saved crumbs to attract birds. He took their feathers and saved the wax. (F!)
Daedalus and Icarus used the feathers and wax to make wings. (F!)	They used the wings to fly from the tower.
Icarus loved flying so much that he began doing tricks and flying higher. (F!)	He flew too close to the sun. His wings melted and he plummeted into the sea.



HOW WRITING CAN BUILD KNOWLEDGE

- **Retrieval Practice or the Testing Effect**
Recalling information that has been slightly forgotten
- **The Protégé Effect**
Explaining something to another person in your own words





The Writing Revolution

A GUIDE TO ADVANCED THINKING THROUGH
WRITING IN ALL SUBJECTS AND GRADES

Judith C. Hochman
Natalie Wexler

FOREWORD BY Doug Lemov



JOSSEY-BASS
A Wiley Brand

Because, But & So

- Andrew Jackson was a popular president because _____.
- Andrew Jackson was a popular president, but _____.
- Andrew Jackson was a popular president, so _____.

Because, But & So

- Andrew Jackson was a popular president because he was the champion of the common man.
- Andrew Jackson was a popular president, but there were many critics of his “kitchen cabinet” and “spoils system.”
- Andrew Jackson was a popular president, so he easily won reelection in 1832.

Curriculum Is
Not Enough
... But It's the
Place to Start



WESTWARD EXPANSION

