

# Introduction

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## **WHY A BOOK USING QUOTES TO INSPIRE GREAT READING TEACHERS?**

As I wrote the proposal that contracted *Quotes to Inspire Great Reading Teachers: A Reflective Tool for Advancing Students' Literacy*, the goal was to create a book with a collection of quotes intended to inspire and assist teachers to reflect on their practices related to literacy development. Inspirational quotes are organized by key components of reading development so that quotes can be included in daily reading lessons to expand students' connections with reading objectives and with their lives outside of school.

- *Making Meaningful Connections* is a collection of quotes that focus on helping teachers reflect on the importance of utilizing background knowledge to make meaningful connections as students learn new concepts.
- *Setting Valuable Goals* is a collection of quotes that develop a deeper understanding both of aspects of literacy acquisition that can be achieved by setting goals and of how the goals can lead to increased achievement and motivation in the classroom.
- *Using Assessment to Excel* is a collection of quotes that make explicit the value of developing assessment experiences throughout life and in literacy experiences by focusing on how assessment is critical to improved reading instruction.
- *Building Blocks for Success* is a collection of quotes organized around the theme of how to increase professional successes and students' literacy successes. The quotes also will aid teachers in reflecting on the many different skills necessary to improve their practices in teaching reading.
- *Word Power Equals Knowledge* is a collection of quotes that emphasize the value of word knowledge and that help teachers reflect on how vocabulary development can be used as a powerful pathway to reading success.

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- *Expand Our Opportunity* is a collection of quotes that will help teachers develop an appreciation for how various aspects of reading can expand opportunities in life and literacy learning.
- *Thinking to Obtain Meaning* is a collection of quotes that help teachers reflect on thinking processes that can be improved in order to obtain deeper understanding. These quotes also highlight the fact that meaning making is a critical aspect of literacy development.
- *Identifying Our Strengths* is a collection of quotes that guide teachers in the process of identifying their strengths as teachers. It also encourages the development of students' independence as literacy learners.
- *Work, Study Skills, and Writing* is a collection of quotes that reinforce how writing and study skills can be used as reflective tools. Quotes in this collection can also be used to empower teachers to increase the extent to which students use writing as a tool to increase their literacy accomplishments.
- *Literacy Worlds* is a collection of quotes that help reflect on different cultures and different ways of thinking.
- *Collaborative Communities at School and Home* is a collection of quotes that help teachers place into perspective the benefits of collaboration with people in a variety of learning communities. The quotes in this collection can also aid students in developing a deeper understanding of the value of collaborative communities.

### **HOW CAN THIS BOOK OF QUOTES BE USED AS A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOOL?**

*Quotes to Inspire Great Reading Teachers* can be a powerful professional development tool in many ways. First, the authors of this book have organized famous, historical, and inspirational quotes in a way that will enable teachers both to deepen reflection and critical thinking and to use the quotes as a tool to think about reading and literacy development.

Second, this book is designed to appeal to a wide range of learning styles and to provide teachers with a creative way to think about their instructional decision making. The impetus for writing the book stems from the need to create a book that uses language as an interactive tool to deepen one's thinking.

Third, this book provides teachers with a guide to document meaningful and personal accounts of their experiences, beliefs, and insight about teaching and literacy development in their classrooms.

Fourth, each lesson includes elements that facilitate reflection, writing, and discussion about literacy. The Lesson Links on each page provide methods of incorporating the quote on that page during reading and other lessons. Many of these Lesson Links are tied to selections of children's literature that reinforce the ideas conveyed in the quote.

## WHAT FEATURES ENHANCE REFLECTIVE TEACHING?

*Quotes to Inspire Great Reading Teachers* includes the following features in each themed collection:

- *Inspirational Quotes.* This is a collection of individual quotes that are organized around central themes to offer teachers fresh ways to develop critical thinking about their professional lives and their students' literacy development.
- *Reading Success Stories.* At the beginning of each collection is a reading success story written by a reading teacher. The stories focus on specific aspects of literacy development; they are true stories of how struggling readers become achieving readers and how struggling teachers grew in their professional practice through reflection and determination to meet the needs of every student.
- *This Quote Makes Me Think About. . .* This section on each page is a blank space that allows teachers to document and capture their thinking about the quote cited. These comments become a reflective record of professional growth.
- *Prompting Teacher's Deeper Thinking.* Three prompts are provided to help engage the teacher in thinking about the central idea in each quote. The prompts are meant to be used as guides to support teachers thinking about their professional development.
- *Lesson Links.* This boxed section provides questions or lesson ideas teachers can use to inspire students to deepen their thinking and make connections back to the quote.
- *Literature Links.* For most quotes, two related literature selections are provided: one that can be used in Grades K–4 and one for Grades 4–10. The literature selections create additional connections with the theme being described in each chapter. These literature selections are linked with the lessons described in the Lesson Links section. They can be used to increase critical thinking in literacy lessons or in content area instruction.
- *Personal Literacy Goals.* Space to document personal goals is included at the beginning and end of each collection of quotes.
- *My Reading Success.* At the end of each collection of quotes, space is given for teachers to record their own reading success stories of struggling readers or readers who have made accomplishments using the quotes or activities provided in this book.

## 4 QUOTES TO INSPIRE GREAT READING TEACHERS

### HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book was written to stand alone as a support for teachers in their professional growth as teachers of reading. But it can also serve as a companion book to increase the benefits of using the research-based practices and activities offered in *Reading First and Beyond: The Complete Guide for Teachers and Literacy Coaches* (Block and Israel, 2005).

The individual quotes can be used by teachers with their students to provide a theme for the day and a prompt for metacognitive thinking about their own literacy and learning. It will also expose them to some of our greatest thinkers. Teachers can use the quotes alone, use them with their own journaling instructions to students, or incorporate the additional supports that are provided with each quote for extending students' thinking and connections to literacy content.

In summary, this book can be used to promote and document any teacher's reflection on critical aspects of instruction that help students become great readers. It can be used by individual teachers, teacher teams, or literacy coaches at workshops, inservice trainings, professional development activities, and every day throughout the year.