

# WORKSHOP

INDEPENDENT WORK TIME

BY MATHEW NEEDLEMAN

## ✧ Grades K-5 ✧

*In order to differentiate instruction it is vital that we have a time each day when students are able to work productively in groups while we call groups of students to challenge and support.*

### *Possible Activities*

*Research/Inquiry Projects*

*Concept/Question Board*

*Reader's Theater*

*Activities related to blending/word knowledge (word sorts, rereading, sentences)*

*Writing*

*Fluency Practice*

*Vocabulary Powerpoints*

*Independent Reading*

*Partner reading*

*Activities related to vocabulary (vocab books, sentences, definitions, etc.)*

*Decodable Book Activities*

*Your own idea*

### *How to Start Workshop*

1. Phase One: 1 Must Do. Teacher observes
2. Phase Two: 2 Must Do's. Teacher observes
3. Phase Three: 2 Must Do's and May Do's. Teacher observes.
4. Phase Four: 2-3 Must Do's and May Do's. Teacher begins to work with small groups.

At the end of workshop each day, you must debrief to discuss what's working and what's not as well as to talk about the inquiry and investigation work being done.

It takes almost a month to have workshop set up well in your room. If you haven't started yet, please take advantage of available resources (see below).

### *Resources available*

*Your literacy coach is available to observe, teach with you, and brainstorm, as you set up workshop in your classroom.*

#### **Also available:**

[www.opencourtresources.com](http://www.opencourtresources.com)  
for powerpoints, reader's theater, etc.

Audio CD explaining IWT in grades K-2

Video on setting up IWT.

### *Rules*

1. Use a quiet voice.
2. Do not interrupt the teacher.
3. Clean up before starting something new.