



Midwest Elementary School Sees Improved Engagement and Comprehension with Reading Rangers

Reading Rangers Online Practice of Essential Reading Skills | Grades K–5

At Van Meter Community School in Iowa, teacher Tracy Ferguson long struggled to keep all her elementary students engaged and interested in reading outside of the assigned language arts curriculum. With over 17 years of classroom teaching under her belt, she knew that engagement was key to getting young students to enjoy reading, which in turn helps them build foundational skills and proficiency.

So, Ferguson was thrilled when she discovered Reading Rangers, the online practice program that uses engaging experiences (like rescuing endangered animals in a game-like setting) to give students meaningful online practice while improving reading fluency and comprehension.

When she learned that she could test the program with a free trial for 30 days, Ferguson decided to give it a try. “There were some students who struggled, others who just didn’t enjoy reading, and others that I knew would

enjoy additional reading time for pleasure,” said Ferguson.

“I realized the program would be great for all of my students, so I signed up for the trial.”

Right away, her students shared how much they enjoyed the program, while she began to see results. “My students absolutely loved

Reading Rangers!” Ferguson said. “It all began with the video, which introduced my students to the characters and the program’s simple mission—the more students worked on Reading Rangers, the more animals they could rescue, and the more they could add to their own animal refuge! It made it fun while giving them rewards along the way.”

Ferguson soon found that many students asked if they could work on Reading Rangers whenever they had free time, which gave her confidence that the tool was as engaging she thought it would be. “I was most impressed



Tracy Ferguson, Teacher
Van Meter Community School,
Van Meter, Iowa



“At the beginning of the year, my students entered second grade reading below grade level. By the end of the year, 100% of my students were on grade level! I attribute a lot of that improvement to Reading Rangers.”

Tracy Ferguson, Teacher



students' home devices," Ferguson said. "I was able to track their growth, time spent, and I could identify specific standards. Then, with a quick Zoom call, I was able to help them with any questions they had. It was a win-win for the students, parents, and for me."

Ferguson shares her experience with other educators every chance she gets. "I would highly recommend this reading practice program to any teacher or administrator who is looking to increase their students' reading engagement and scores," she said. "As a teacher, I loved following my students' data and planning my reading enrichment groups around the standards. I also used many of the 'teacher resources' for our literacy station work and for small-group instruction. Students researched and wrote about each of the animals they rescued, which helped their research skills, writing, and more."

by how my lowest and most challenged students were engaged and wanted to keep reading with Reading Rangers. From my lowest to highest-proficiency students, all reading scores soared in terms of phonics, fluency, and comprehension. That was all I needed to know."

When she first considered adding an online reading practice tool, one concern was integration with the reading curriculum she had in place, Ferguson shared. However, she soon discovered how easy it was to use Reading Rangers along with her regular lessons. "Since Reading Rangers is aligned to each grade level's reading standards, students are able to practice these skills and cycle through them throughout the year. When my students can make connections between what they are learning in our small groups and online with Reading Rangers, I know they are learning at a much higher level."

Students have been able to continue to practice their reading skills with Reading Rangers at home and on summer break, which made both teacher and parents happy. "It was so easy because it is compatible with my



Reading Rangers can be used with any reading or intervention program. Reading Rangers provides:

- Defined and consistent delivery of activities that follow a structured path of learning
- Specific learning activities designed for students still in the acquisition phase of foundational literacy skills of phonological awareness and phonics
- Reports that show how students are performing and detail where they may be struggling
- The ability to assign lessons that align with any reading program in use



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