Partner Reading & Summarizing

What is it?
Partner reading is a highly structured approach to reading collaboratively, in which students take turns reading aloud to each other and work together to summarize what they have read. This strategy supports students in developing reading fluency and comprehension. It is particularly effective with English learners, and can support all learners to access complex text.

This strategy is described in Calderon, M. E. & Slack, S. (2018). *Teaching Reading to English Learners Grades 6-12 (2nd ed.).* Corwin. (pp. 83-89).

How does it work?

- ☐ Teacher assigns partners, taking into consideration students' primary language and ELD level.
- ☐ Partners determine who is Partner A and who is Partner B.
- ☐ Partner A reads aloud a chunk of text (a sentence, a few sentences, or a paragraph, depending on the reading level and students' familiarity with partner reading).
- ☐ Partner B reads along silently, helping Partner A as needed with new words.
- ☐ Partners switch roles.
- ☐ Partner B reads aloud a chunk of text.
- ☐ Partner A reads along silently, helping Partner B as needed with new words.
- ☐ At the end of each paragraph, partners work together to orally summarize what they just read, using as many Tier 2 and Tier 3 words as possible.

Modifications

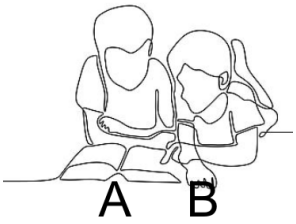
For newcomers (or very low-level readers): Use triads instead of pairs. The newcomer sits between the other students and initially just listens and reads along silently. After a few days of observing, the newcomer begins to shadow read (reading after each partner in a soft voice) or read along with each partner. Eventually, the newcomer starts to take a turn.

For higher-level readers or long texts: After a paragraph or two of basic Partner Reading, partners continue reading silently until they reach the bottom of the page or the next subheading. Then they put their heads together to summarize what they read.

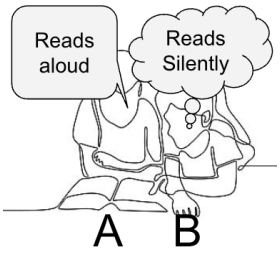
Directions for Lower Level Readers

Partner Reading Directions

1. Who is Partner A? Who is Partner B?



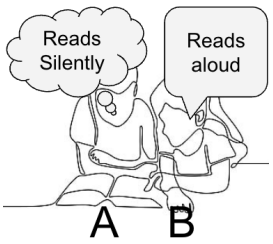
2. Partner A reads aloud a sentence. Partner B reads along silently.



3. Switch.



4. Partner B reads aloud the next sentence. Partner A reads along silently.



5. Keep switching until the end of the paragraph.



6. Stop at the end of the paragraph. Partner A and Partner B summarize the paragraph together.

