

# COMPLEX TEXTS Learning Site

@ Grew Elementary

## EVENT SUMMARY

### Session Overview

On **November 4 and 10, 2022**, the Telescope Network hosted a Learning Site at the Henry Grew Elementary school in Hyde Park on the topic “*How do we support all learners to engage in complex texts?*” Our host teacher was Emmanuel Fairley-Pittman (Grade 5 @ Grew) and debrief facilitator was Natasha Gordon (ESL/Librarian @ Grew). We had **23** participants join from **14** different BPS schools/departments join this session.



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#### What is a Learning Site?

In a Learning Site, educators come together for a 1/2 day in a real live classroom around a common area of practice. Participants debrief with the host teacher and set goals for their own classrooms. Participants continue the learning through virtual follow-up sessions to earn an ALC credit.

#### Credits

12 PD hr  
Or 1 ALC

### Why this topic?

This session topic was identified as part of the [Telescope Network Spring 2022 needs assessment](#). One of the major themes in the survey data was equitable literacy instruction and working with complex texts. Sample educator responses:

- *How can we ensure that students are exposed to complex text without overwhelming and frustrating them-- how do we get the balance right?*
- *How do we differentiate for the different literacy skill levels of students in our classroom especially if they are traditionally with a SEI or Sub-separate classroom education history?*

### Learning Site Materials

[Learning Site Packet](#) Includes agenda and driver diagram

[Debrief Notes](#) from 11/4

[Debrief Notes](#) from 11/10

[Virtual Session Slideshow](#)

### Participant Artifacts

- [Christine Yancey, Mather Elementary, Grade 4 Teacher](#)
- [Kathryn Papadeas, Blackstone Elementary, ESL Teacher](#)

### Participant Feedback

After the session, **100%** of participants (16 out of 16 exit ticket responses) said that they would recommend this session to a colleague. Additional comments from participants:



- This was so worthy of my time investment. Thank you!!!
- Today I was able to see what engaging students in complex text looks and sounds like in a classroom.
- The teacher holding high the expectations---while scaffolding for various needs, yet demonstrating that all students can and will be able to read and understand the text.
- The observation was great. Lunch was tasty. The topic was important and useful.
- Teachers were engaged and the presenter was amazing! Great facilitators.
- This classroom is seriously amazing. The interaction he had with his class, the way he addressed everything, etc. It was tremendous.

## Participant Takeaways

We asked, "What's one thing you learned today that might benefit your students?" Sample responses:

- Metacognition + UDL + Share excitement = student success
- Process over product-- students should see the value of the "how" not just the "what"
- I quote (a student): "This is fun!" Literacy should be fun and...students owning the learning.
- I am thinking about the way the students worked collaboratively in small groups.
- Sharing the "heavy lifting" Setting up clear and solid expectations. Seeing student take ownership for their own learning and growth.
- The teacher holding high the expectations---while scaffolding for various needs, yet demonstrating that all students can and will be able to read and understand the text.

## Next Steps

- This Learning Site includes three follow-up sessions on Zoom on 11/17, 12/1, and 12/15
- [Telescope Events Calendar](#) for future PD sessions and social events.

## Additional Resources

Event facilitators: [Emmanuel Fairley-Pittman](#) (host teacher), [Natasha Gordon](#) (debrief facilitator), [Theresa Garcia de Quevedo](#), [Kadian Simmonds](#), & [Mark Lonergan](#). Visit [bostonpublicschools.org/telescope](https://bostonpublicschools.org/telescope) for more information. Email us at [telescope@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:telescope@bostonpublicschools.org).

- LS Grew 2022 Flyer
- Grew Pre-Learning Site Session\_Slide Deck 11.2022

