So You Want to be a RTC RAT?

Join the RATs!

A new support group is forming at RTC— instructors who want to incorporate the use of Reading Apprentice-ship® into their curriculum and their supporters: RATs (Reading Apprentice-ship Teachers and supporters)

Become a RAT and start to learn how to help improve your students’ reading skills. The RAT Pack is the initial training/planning/coordinating team to help get you started. Contact one of them today for more information about RA or becoming an RTC Rat.

For more info about RA at RTC, scurry over to our new RATs website and blog!

http://www.rtc-rats.org/

Taking Next Steps to RAT-Hood

• Sign up for RA workshops.
• Read the articles on the RATs website, especially the WestEd articles.
• Talk to your students about how they read.
• Apprentice your students with their reading assignments by modeling talking to the text (There is a task flow diagram about TttT in the Sept. 08 issue of the RAT Review.)
• Order a RATs t-shirt.
• Participate in the RATs blog.
• Put up a student-generated Reading Strategies List in the classroom as they tackle their reading tasks.

Order a RATs T-Shirt

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL
Cost: $31.00 each but may be less if we order more than the minimum order of six shirts.
Due Date for Orders: 10/31/08
Contact: Debbie Crumb, x5678

RAT Pack is Ready to Help!

Debbie Crumb: Behind-the-scenes organizer and “gofer”, librarian, newsletter editor, webmaster.

Michele Lesmeister: Practitioner, trainer/mentor, data guru, team spokesperson.

Ardene Niemer: Practitioner, trainer/mentor.

Jenna Pollock: Trainer/mentor, RA training coordinator.

Website of the Month

Think Aloud Video Example
Think Aloud (TA)

**Think Aloud** encourages readers to engage in metacognitive conversations as they talk out loud about what they are thinking in their heads as they interact with the text. This makes the “invisible” process of reading more visible. For more info, read pages 12-20 of WestEd’s *Meta-cognitive Conversation: Making Thinking Visible* document (available via the RATs website).

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**Over time, TA deepens readers’ thinking, metacognitive conversations and reading comprehension.**

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Statistics to Consider

In two *A New Rat-itude about Reading* overview workshops conducted at RTC’s Sept. 16th faculty in-service, the RAT Pack asked attendees three specific questions. Here are the questions and the data that reflect the attendees information.

- **Do you have students in your class who have problems with reading?**
  - Yes: 92%
  - No: 4%
  - Abstain: 4%

- **Do you find yourself giving fewer reading assignments or using an easier textbook?**
  - Yes 43.33%
  - No 46.66%
  - Abstain 13.33%

- **Could you use some help in improving your students’ reading skills?**
  - Yes 90.32%
  - No 3.22%
  - Abstain 6.45%

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Mark Your Calendars

**Library Classroom C-204**
2:45—3:45 PM

On **Mon. Oct. 27** and **Mon. Nov. 17**, Michele Lesmeister will conduct hands-on workshops on how to use a few specific RA strategies.

RTC Library’s Item of Month

The RTC Library has a variety of materials to support improved student reading. For more information, contact the Library at 425-235-2331 or via email at librarian@RTC.edu.

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*Building a Knowledge Base in Reading* (2nd edition)
428.407 BRAUNGE 2006