

Conferring in the Reading Workshop

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Definition

- A reading conference is a discussion between the student and the teacher focused on the student's perceptions and thoughts about the text.
- Nancie Atwell uses the dinner table as a metaphor.

Three Part Structure

- Begins with the teacher engaging the student in conversation about the text. The teacher **listens** and records notes regarding the students thinking about the text.
- The teacher decides on a teaching point based on the student's needs. The teacher determines these needs based on the discussion and the state standards.
- The teaching point is shared with the student. This is the student's focus during independent reading until the next reading conference.
- 3-5 minutes/once a week (could meet more or less frequently based on student's needs)

Questions to Engage Students

- How's it going?
- What's happened since...?
- Were there any tricky parts?
- Who was your favorite character? Why?
- Has anything similar ever happened to you?
- Does this make sense given what the author told us earlier?