

Overview: The Science of Reading

Literacy Academy on Demand

The Course Companion is designed to allow participants to take notes, address reflection prompts and easily access course resources. Each section of the Course Companion is linked to a corresponding section of the course.

Consider this Scenario:

Mr. Feeny has been teaching for several years and feels that he has a good understanding of how to teach children to read. He has a few tried and true techniques that he picked up in his teacher education classes, from colleagues and through professional learning opportunities. He has even drawn on some of the approaches he remembers from his teachers when he was a student. Recently, he took some time to review his students' reading proficiency data from the past few years. He noticed that between 40-50% of his students were not proficient each year. This did not change even when his district did a major curriculum overhaul. Mr. Feeny knows that more students should be able to learn to read effectively but does not have a good sense of why he has struggles to help them.

Q: Can you relate to this scenario? In what ways are your challenges in literacy instruction similar or different?

Video: [What is the Science of Reading? with Carolyn Turner](#)

Notes:

Resources:

Read the Article [“What is the Science of Reading”](#) by Dr. Timothy Shanahan on Reading Rockets.

After you read answer the following question:

Identify one or two ideas from the article that either affirmed or challenged your thinking about the Science of Reading. Why?

Course Reflection:

- How would you explain the Science of Reading to a colleague in your own words? How would you explain it to a caregiver?

- Consider the core components of how to teach discussed in the video (explicit, systematic and sequential):
 - How are you already practicing these approaches in your classroom or building?
 - Identify two or three small steps you can take to make your instruction more explicit, systematic and sequential.

The following resources are listed in the course:

- [Science of Reading: Defining Guide](#) by The Reading League provides an in-depth explanation of the science of reading.
- Watch [The Science \(and Poetry\) of Reading](#) by Maryanne Wolf from the 2021 Ohio Literacy Academy