

# What's the Buzz Around Disciplinary Literacy?

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# Disciplinary Literacy

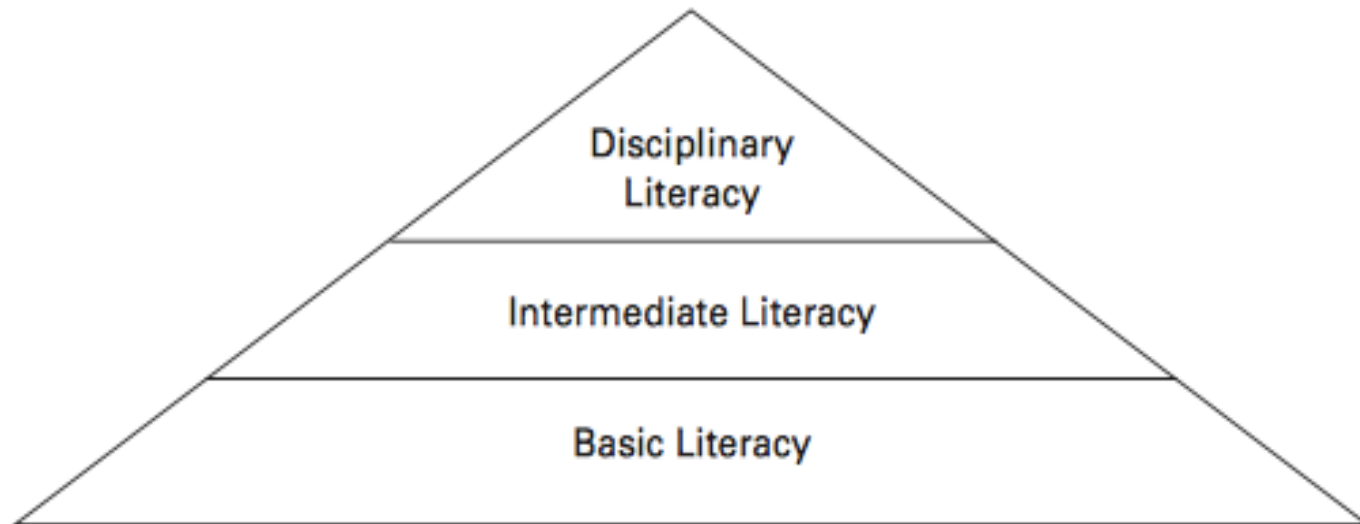
Disciplinary literacy moves beyond the common strategies used across all content areas and focuses on the unique strategies experts use to engage with text in that discipline. (Shanahan, 2012)

Teachers must move from transmitting information to showing students how to engage in the literacies that make up their discipline. (Lent, 2016)

Being literacy in a discipline means understanding the content, discourses, and habits of mind utilized by experts (Fang & Coatoam, 2013)



# Increasing Specialization in Literacy



***Basic Literacy:*** Literacy skills such as decoding and knowledge of high-frequency words that underlie virtually all reading tasks.

***Intermediate Literacy:*** Literacy skills common to many tasks, including generic comprehension strategies, common word meanings, and basic fluency.

***Disciplinary Literacy:*** Literacy skills specialized to history, science, mathematics, literature, or other subject matter.



# Cynthia Shanahan





# Content Area Literacy vs. DL

Outside-In  
vs.  
Inside-out





# Disciplinary Practices in Math

- Reread
- Learn the Names of Variables Before Reading Formula
- Read Equations with Appropriate Directionality
- Learn Accurate Definitions
- Detect Errors
- Recognize Distracting information



# My Favorite No





# Disciplinary Practices in Science

- Transform
- Write for Different Audiences and Purposes
- Learn Science Vocabulary
- Take Notes
- Understand the Language of Science





# Morphology

## Common Word Roots

### Common Greek Roots



**aqu**  
water



**biblio**  
book



**chrono**  
time



**geo**  
earth



**photo**  
light

### Common Latin Roots



**audi**  
hear



**circ**  
round



**jur**  
law



**manu**  
hand



**pac**  
peace

ThoughtCo.



# Common Content Area Morphemes

Common Morpheme	Definition	Content Words
poly meter gon	more than one measure angle	polygon, polyhedron perimeter, metric, centimeter hexagon, diagonal, pentagon
inter dem ism	between relating to people practice or belief	international, intercontinental democracy, demographic, epidemic Socialism, Hinduism, Communism
typ bio ize	model or figure life to do	phenotype, prototype, genotype antibiotic, biosphere, biology hypothesize, standardize, stylize



# Disciplinary Practices in History

- Sourcing
- Contextualization
- Corroboration
- Analyzing Relationships Among Events
- Use of Interpretive Frameworks
- Reading Multiple Genres
- Understanding the Language of History
- Writing History



# Reading Like a Historian

Reading Like a Historian



**Omisha**  
11th Grader

Play (k)

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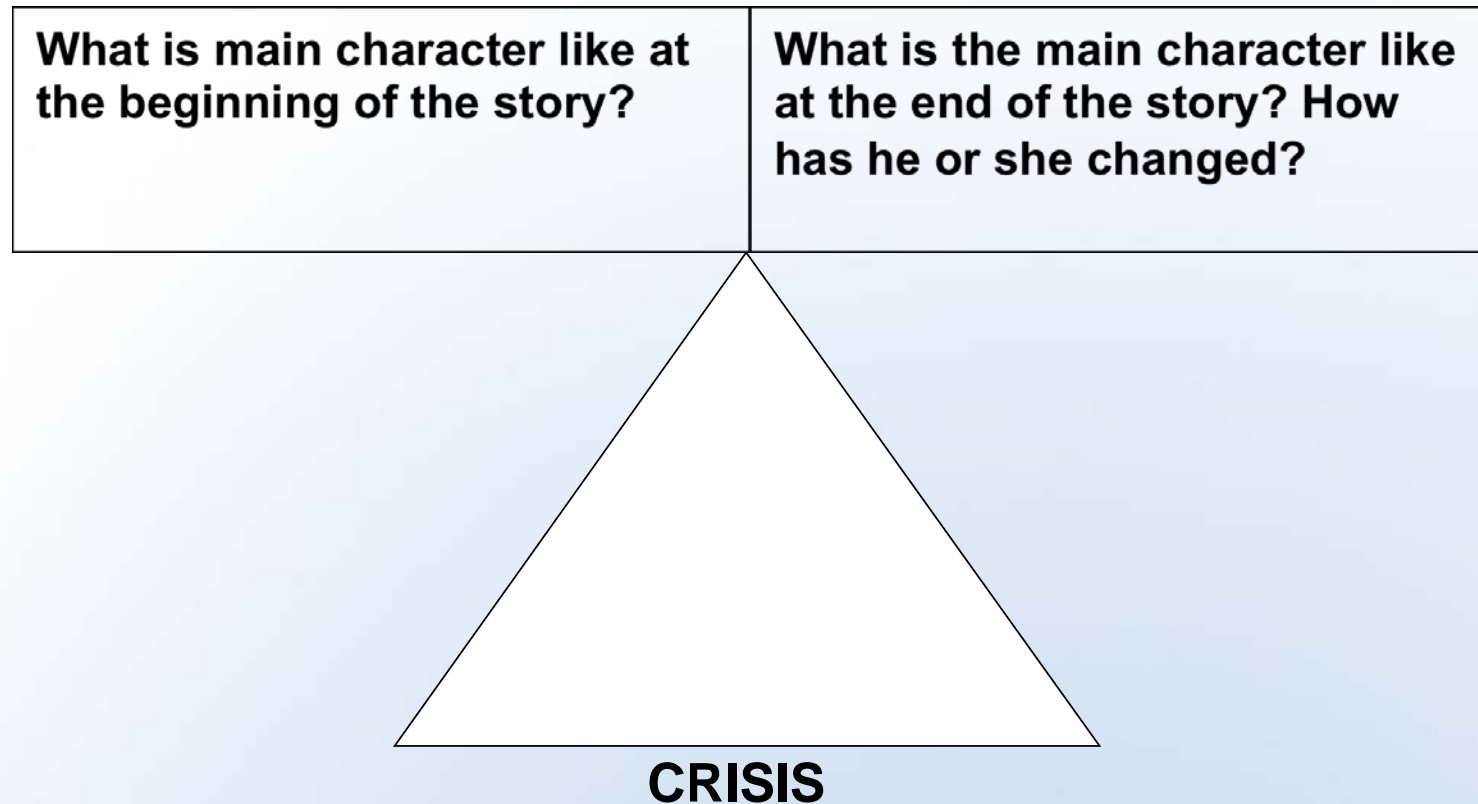


# Disciplinary Practices in English

- Reading Different Interpretations of the Same Text
- Learn the Structure of Argument
- Learn the Language of Literary Criticism
- Learn How to Recognize Themes



# Finding a Theme: Character Change Chart



**Given the change, what did the author want you to know?**





# Inquiry Domains

1. Which disciplinary habits of mind are most important to highlight in a given unit or lesson?
2. Which literacy skills are required to complete the tasks in a lesson?
3. How might a lack of literacy skills inhibit students from accessing content?
4. Which intermediate skills might need explicit reinforcement?
5. Which skills are for discipline-specific exploration?





# Four Corners Activity

- Select one of the four core subject areas in which you would feel comfortable applying the previous inquiry domain questions to a lesson and move to designated corner.
- Read the lesson plan provided. Discuss each of the 5 questions as they pertain to the lesson.
- Be prepared to share-out the highlights of your discussion and how the inquiry domains supported DL within the lesson.







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