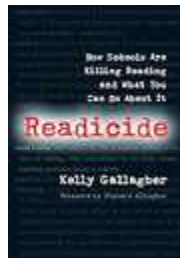


## Adding Informational Text to the English Classroom

### “Article of the Week”



“Part of the reason my students have such a hard time reading is because they bring little prior knowledge and background to the written page. They can decode the words, but the words remain meaningless without a foundation of knowledge. To help build my students’ prior knowledge, I assign them an “Article of the Week” every Monday morning. By the end of the school year I want them to have read 35 to 40 articles about what is going on in the world. It is not enough to simply teach my students to recognize theme in a given novel; if my students are to become literate, they must broaden their reading experiences into real-world text.”

Kelly Gallagher

Kelly Gallagher is a veteran high school English teacher in Anaheim, California and the author of multiple books on teaching reading and writing. One of those books is entitled “*Readicide*”. In this book, Gallagher discusses the strategy “*Article of the Week*”.

According to Gallagher, each Monday, students are given an article to read. At the top of each article, Gallagher provides the following directions:

1. Mark your confusion.
2. Show evidence of a close reading. Mark up the text with questions and/or comments.
3. Write a one-page reflection on your own sheet of paper”.

At the end of each article, Gallagher provides possible written response topics. A new article is provided each week with the same framework.

An archived library of past and current “articles of the week” is available at [www.kellygallagher.org](http://www.kellygallagher.org). Click on resources.

The following websites show ideas of how various teachers use the “article of the week.”

<http://vms.vale.k12.or.us/articles-week>

<https://sites.google.com/a/mystma.org/mistercantan/articleoftheweek>

<https://sites.google.com/a/chccs.k12.nc.us/jessica-alexander/article-of-the-week-archive>

<http://www.teachingthecore.com/resources/article-of-the-week-aow/>

<http://www.tfd215.org/south/staffresources/sipresources/articlresources/>