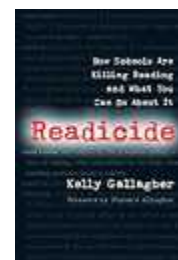


Adding Informational Text to the English Classroom

“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. 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/>