



Dear PA Principals Association Member,

It seems like everyone in education is talking about the **Science of Reading**. Now we understand “how” students learn to read better than ever before. Plus we have evidence-based strategies to build students’ reading skills.

Yes, neuroscience and research have taught us a lot about how kids read. So, let’s use that.

But anyone who has ever worked in a school knows that true learning doesn’t happen if kids aren’t engaged. Unfortunately, when it comes to reading, students report they are bored and uninterested. Research tells us that this undermines reading achievement.

So, let’s also find ways to truly engage students in their reading. Maybe even help them learn to love it.

To tap into both of these types of research, I present two books to you this month:

The first book describes the 5 essential components needed to teach reading (according to in-depth research): phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension.



The second book shares the 5 building blocks needed to help students find joy in reading: time, access, choice, response and community. Five must be the magic number!

In addition to book summaries, I've also created a workshop you can use with teachers, **“Teaching Reading for the Head and Heart.”** This workshop addresses the Science of Reading and the joy of reading. The goal is to share strategies teachers can use to cultivate reading joy along with phonics and evidence-based instruction.

This workshop includes a slide deck, a facilitator’s guide, and a HANDOUT for teachers. I hope this is useful for you!

A special thank you this month to **María Luisa García Underwood**, MA, EdM, MEd, President/CEO of M Ideas Consulting Services, Inc., for her resources and assistance in putting together this workshop.

Here are my resources this month:

- **The Power of Effective Reading Instruction** — **book summary** and **podcast** about the book.
- **The Joy of Reading** — **book summary** and **podcast** about the book.
- Request the workshop — **Teaching Reading for the Head & Heart PPT workshop with materials.**

I hope you get some downtime this summer — and squeeze in a bit of professional reading, too;).

Reach out for any reason, and I'll be back next month.

Jenn

Looking for invigorating professional learning for yourself?



If you like my work, you will love learning from my **Mastermind groups** if you are a school or district leader who...

- Loves professional learning with **actionable nuggets** (on topics like time management, coaching teachers, and difficult conversations).
- Is excited by hearing what works in other schools and getting new **strategies and resources** from **other leaders in the field**.
- Is ready to **prioritize your own professional learning**.

I run small online biweekly groups of school and district leaders. I have to say this is the best PL for leaders I've ever been involved with.

[Learn more here](#) or send [me an email](#). I'd love that.