

# #INspirEDlit

June 2020



## Time to Reflect

You made it! The last several months have no doubt been one of the largest challenges of your teaching career. You had to take everything that you have ever done and modify it for remote learning. If you have not taken a moment to acknowledge all of your hard work, make sure you do that sometime this month.

This summer, more than any other, is an opportunity to evaluate what went well and what did not go well with remote learning, but also in your traditional classroom. We have no idea what the next school year is going to bring, and it is best to be prepared for anything in this ever-changing society. The following newsletter provides suggestions for how to practice self-reflection, topics to reflect on, and opportunities for professional growth.

## Literacy Updates from IDOE

### Updated Standards for ELA

The [ELA standards](#) and the [Literacy Framework](#) have been updated on the IDOE website. Along with the standards, you will find the standards crosswalks. These documents will show any changes between the 2014 and 2020 standards.

We encourage you to look over both of these resources to help guide you in the development of curriculum maps for the upcoming school year!



## Ideas and Insight

### Reflective Practices

Teaching is an action that happens too quickly; we often don't have a moment to jot down our thoughts about how activities or lessons went. We are constantly moving from one task to the other

and this school year was no different. The following section provides some practices you can use to be reflective.



### **Journal Writing**

Taking time to write down your thoughts in a journal can be a very important practice to include in your day-to-day life. It provides an opportunity to work through your thoughts in an environment that has no judgement. We recommend thinking through each unit you taught throughout the school year. What lessons went well? What lessons had room for improvement? What adjustments could you make to your instructional practices that would have provided for a stronger outcome? Having all of these thoughts written down allows you to always come back and add whenever you are ready.

### **Being Out in Nature**

Now more than ever, we feel cooped up in our homes and we are eager to get outside and enjoy the newly arriving warm weather. While being in nature has all kinds of health benefits, it also can be good for our mental health. We encourage you to find a spot either in your backyard or a local park that you find beautiful. Leave your phone and all other distractions outside of an arm's reach and allow yourself to be alone with your thoughts. This can be a great alternative to writing because it truly allows your mind to wander from one idea to the next. Reflect on the different emotions you experienced during the school year. What were moments that made you happy? What were moments that made you angry or anxious? What adjustments could you make to create more happy and less anxious moments for next school year?

### **Collaborating with Peers**

Most educators have the opportunity to collaborate with peers during professional learning communities (PLC) or in the rare, free moments one may have before or after school. With the end of the school year happening remotely, you may not have had the same quantity of time to collaborate. We encourage you to reach out to other educators from within and outside of your district. Learn about the victories of other educators. What strategies have other teachers tried that you would like to? What activities worked to keep student engagement high? What success stories do you have that you could share with others?

## **Topics for Reflection**

IDOE has had the opportunity to hear from many of educators about issues that have come to the forefront during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The circumstances surrounding remote learning have led educators to consider why they do things the way they do and if it is truly in the best interest of the student. Here are some areas of reflection focused on your instructional practices and the practices within your school and district.



### **Grading**

Are traditional grading practices truly evaluating student learning? What changes could be made to grading practices that would make learning more equitable? How does one measure "engagement" in a remote learning environment?

### **Flexibility**

How can we allow students to have more control of their schedule and when they complete work? Should the school day still be a strict four or seven period day? How do we offer support to students who are absent or unable to attend on a regular basis?

### **Equity/Access**

How can we better meet the needs of students who do not have access to internet or a device? How can we ensure that our paper/pencil alternatives to digital work meet the same rigor and learning? To what extent do our teaching practices benefit students who are able to use internet and digital devices from their home?

### Social-Emotional Support

What role does relationship building play in educating students? How can we build meaningful connections that can be sustained without daily, in-person interactions? How does a change in routine affect a student's ability to meet the academic demands of curriculum?

### Communication

How can parents become more engaged partners in their child's education? What information should we share with parents to ensure they can offer adequate support to their child? How can we keep parents engaged when school returns to a traditional setting?



## Opportunities for Professional Development

If you are looking for opportunities to develop professionally, check out these book studies and webinars that are available to you!

[Kelly Gallagher and Penny Kittle Digital Discussions](#) - thirty days worth of videos talking about all things ELA and remote learning. They have several special guests from all different areas of expertise.

[International Society for Technology in Education \(ISTE\) U Microcourses](#)- several online courses at a very low cost for members and nonmembers. Courses range from creating online learning opportunities to ensuring equity and inclusion in online learning.

[IDOE Book Study](#)- beginning June 8 you can read and discuss *Copyrighteous* by Indiana educator Diana Gill. The study will last through the week of July 20 and be worth up to 14 PGPs. Sign up for the course in [Moodle](#) using the enrollment key, copy2020.



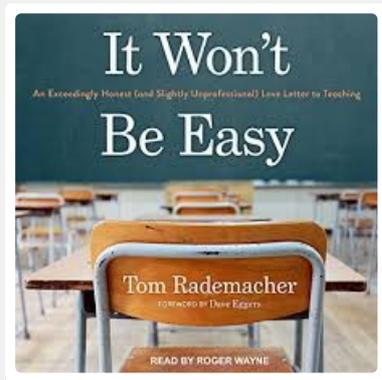
## Literacy Framework

Does your school utilize a curriculum map, scope and sequence, or pacing guide? The [Literacy Framework](#) is a tool you can use to curriculum map and plan throughout the school year. Use the Literacy Framework to dive into each standard through "I can" statements, question stems, practical examples, and digital resources!

Have special requests for support? Feel free to reach out to us at any time. That's what we are here for!

## Book Suggestions

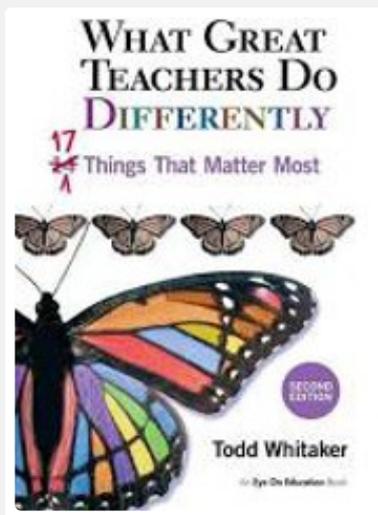
Below are books that should help inspire and rejuvenate you. Consider reading them to have a laugh, look for ways to be your best self, and to remember why you continue to be a teacher year after year.



### It Won't Be Easy

By: Tom Rademacher

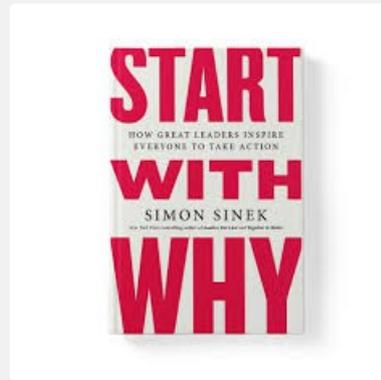
This book is written by a classroom teacher about his reflections day-in and day-out in the classroom. He holds no punches on the challenges of being a teacher, but also shares about the joys he has experienced. This book is less about educational jargon and more about practical wisdom for any person who wants to learn about the behind the scenes work of being a teacher.



### What Great Teachers Do Differently

By: Todd Whitaker

This book, written by Todd Whitaker, a leading thinker in education, offers pieces of advice, wisdom, and inspiration to guide teachers in becoming the best they can. This book breaks down the commonalities that exist between truly great teachers. You can read through and see all the great things you are already doing and hopefully find one or two adjustments you can make to become even greater.



### Start with Why

By: Simon Sinek

This book is based off of the phenomenon Simon Sinek started relating to the idea of The Golden Circle. This idea centers around the "why" of why people do the things that they do. This book will help you come back to why you are an educator and how your "why" should motivate you to deliver your best self every day in the classroom. This will help center yourself to what really keeps you going.

## Educator Opportunities to Check Out!

### July Automated Scoring Focus Groups

IDOE invites interested educators to register for one of three focus groups to engage in discussions about the potential use of automated scoring for Indiana's state assessments. See this [flyer](#) that contains more information and meeting registration links. Contact the Office of Student Assessment (OSA) with any questions.

## Check out this opportunity from IDOE Title Team

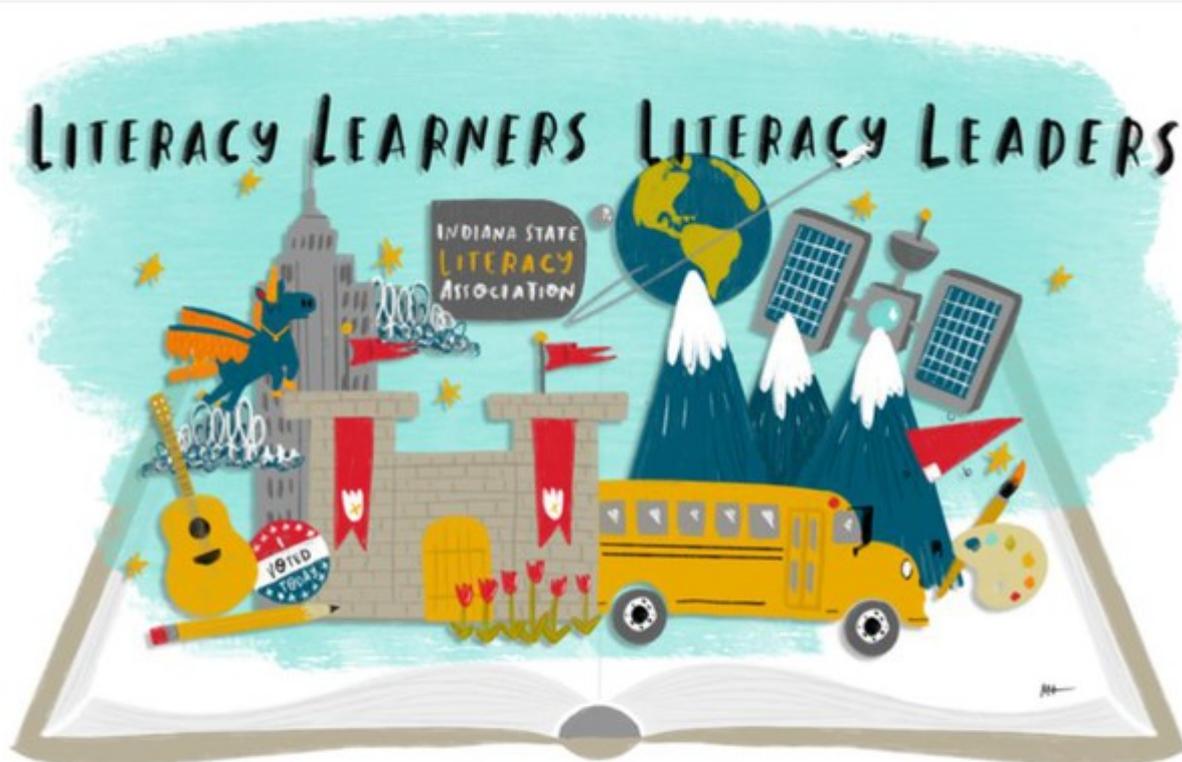
Sign-up or renew your [Video On Demand](#) Subscription to receive 3-months of FREE video content. Explore the sessions from the 2020 National ESEA Conference, as well as sessions from the previous conference. Subscribers can earn [Continuing Education Units](#) (through the University of San Diego at an additional fee) by watching sessions and filling out the evaluations.

### Share the Wealth

Learn from the comfort of your home or anywhere. On Demand videos provide an opportunity for inspiring and informative professional development. Download the [FREE On Demand Video Flyer](#) to share with your colleagues.

## Indiana State Literacy Conference

Join the Indiana affiliate of the International Literacy Association for a great day of learning. Register [here](#).



## INDIANA STATE LITERACY CONFERENCE 2020

September 12, 2020 | Noblesville High School

Register at [www.indianareads.org](http://www.indianareads.org) | #ISLA20 | @IndianaReads



## Literacy and Tech: Thought of the Month!

["Write. Right. Rite." Series](#)

Library of Congress

National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, Jason Reynolds, provides weekly writing prompts via video to encourage create writing. These writing prompts can be adjusted for different age groups. Reignite the fun in writing by encouraging students to follow Jason's lead by pushing their imagination.

## Connect on Twitter!

It's been reported that over four million educators use Twitter for professional conversations. As educators, there is so much we can learn from each other. We invite you to connect with us and each other!

**#INspirEDlit**  
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1. Tweet about all things LITERACY using #INspirEDlit
2. Follow the hashtag and connect with other coaches and educators
3. Follow @EducatelN for the latest updates from Indiana Department of Education
4. Follow your IDOE Literacy Team: [@RoseTomishima](#), [@KellyKWaller](#), & [@JMRisch1](#)

Want to join our Literacy Community of Practice? [Click here.](#)

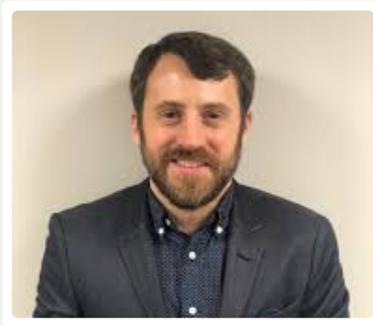


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