

Spotlight on Books
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Each author and showcase offered me useful titles, authors, and tips to enhance the reading experience and achievement of my students; however, Jim Trelease's challenge to campaign for reading has inspired me!

The importance of reading aloud and allowing students to select their own books has long been a cornerstone of my teaching style. Now, armed with Trelease's facts from his presentation and website I plan to launch a reading promotion with parents and families to emphasize their influence in their child's reading success. Prior to summer pertinent facts can be shared on our team's website and also with mailed grades and progress reports. I'll promote the public library's summer reading program for teens. I'll work to develop and maintain my "100 BOOK Blog" so that students have access to possible titles, authors, and genres.

Trelease's graph on the summer reading drop comparing socio-economic explained why reading scores drop from middle elementary grades through middle school. His comparison of time spent in school and time at home was so obvious in its impact on reading that I fear it is often overlooked!

Next year, I have renewed commitment for continued reading opportunities for struggling and reluctant readers. The information I gained at this conference will help my lobby for continued reading instruction beyond reading test prep! My commitment to independent, self selected reading has never been more validated than after hearing Trelease. What luck that I caught him prior to his retirement- *Thanks for sending me to Spotlight on Books!*
