

## ACHIEVE THE CORE



# The Book Basket Campaign

The Book Basket Campaign is part of an action research project seeking to gather qualitative data on what happens when students are offered opportunities to choose materials and read on topics during their independent reading time. Research shows that reading on topics can develop vocabulary up to four times faster when students read a series of related texts (Landauer & Dumais, 1997). Recht and Leslie, in the famous baseball study, proved that less skilled readers scored nearly as well on reading comprehension tasks as skilled readers when reading about a topic they knew something about. In this project, we are asking teachers, librarians and coaches to reorganize their independent reading materials and offer students the opportunity to read on topics – and collect anecdotes and data about what happens for students. All of the collected qualitative data from the research sites will be compiled into one report. This report will include guidance and suggestions for educators as they reorganize independent reading baskets.

The questions guiding the inquiry include:

- What changes in **student motivation and reading behavior** occur when texts for independent reading are arranged by topic? Are there any effects for struggling readers specifically?
- What **recommendations** can be shared about arranging reading materials for students in grades K-8?
- What are the **implications for practice** based on this project?

The Book Basket Campaign Leads will support participating educators and librarians and will assist with organization of materials and collection of data. Please join us in expanding students' access to topical reading!

### Research and Resources:

Building Knowledge: Research Supporting Shift 3

<http://achievethecore.org/page/2668/building-knowledge-research-supporting-shift-3>

<https://vimeo.com/132681353> (25:51 - 31:39) - This video excerpt of David Liben speaking on the value of building knowledge highlights some of the reasons for building knowledge, and although he references PARCC and SBAC, the message is the same for any state college/career ready test. The entire video is the introduction to the text set project, Why Build Knowledge and Vocabulary, and is worth watching if you have time.

Reading Comprehension Requires Knowledge - of Words and the World: Scientific Insights into the Fourth-Grade Slump and the Nation's Stagnant Comprehension Scores, E.D.Hirsch, Jr. in *American Educator*, Spring, 2003.

[https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/periodicals/AE\\_SPRNG.pdf](https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/periodicals/AE_SPRNG.pdf)

A Level is a Teacher's Tool, NOT a Child's Label

<http://blog.fountasandpinnell.com/post/a-level-is-a-teacher-s-tool-not-a-child-s-label>

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT PARTNERS