



The Reading Roundtable

Coaching Conversations for
Strong Literacy Practice

LISTEN. REFLECT.
COLLABORATE. GROW.



Reflection Guide

Episode 2:

Why Strong Core Instruction Comes First



BIG IDEA

Strong core instruction is the foundation of a strong literacy system. Before moving quickly to intervention, schools must first ensure that every student receives clear, consistent, grade-level Tier 1 instruction that includes explicit teaching, rich texts, purposeful vocabulary and language work, and meaningful opportunities to read, write, discuss, and build knowledge.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Tier 1 core instruction is the instructional foundation every student should experience daily.
- ✓ Strong core instruction includes grade-level standards, rich texts, explicit teaching, and meaningful student practice.
- ✓ When core instruction is unclear, inconsistent, or fragile, more students appear to need intervention.
- ✓ Intervention matters, but it cannot replace a strong, coherent daily instructional core.



CLASSROOM REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1 What are students consistently receiving during core instruction every day?
- 2 Does our Tier 1 instruction provide clear, explicit teaching aligned to grade-level standards and rich text?
- 3 How are students engaging in vocabulary, discussion, writing, and knowledge building during the lesson?
- 4 Where might inconsistency, lack of clarity, or weak instructional support during core instruction be contributing to student struggle?
- 5 What is one way we can strengthen core instruction before adding additional layers of support?



PLC CONVERSATION STARTER

Look at one upcoming literacy lesson. Ask: What parts of strong core instruction are clearly present? Then ask: Where could the lesson be strengthened to provide greater clarity, consistency, and access for all students?



ACTION STEP

Choose one lesson this week and strengthen one element of core instruction—such as modeling, text use, vocabulary, discussion, or student practice—so that all students experience stronger Tier 1 support.

