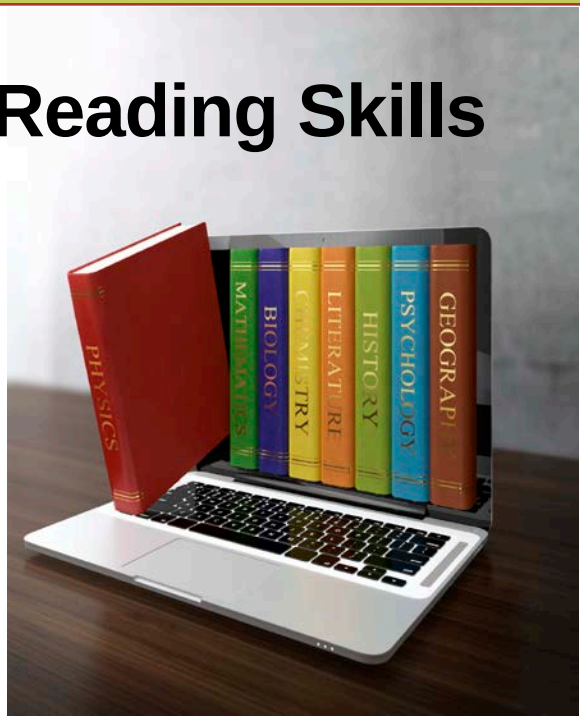
Tech Options to Enhance Reading Skills



Recommended Apps & Sites

Noting ideas during reading

At any given point during the day, students are reading and writing about what they have learned, collaborating on projects with their peers and creating presentations. This can be especially daunting for struggling learners. Below are some suggested applications to assist with skills like annotating texts, making electronic bulletin boards, using electronic sticky notes, highlighting main ideas, and many other electronic versions to help students read closely.

- Padlet is useful for creating a wall of discussion based around specific content, much like an electronic bulletin board. Students can collaborate, share information via audio, video, music, photos, and text. Padlets are easily shared with a single link and are accessible from around the world for real-time collaboration. www.padlet.com
- Grammarly assists struggling learners with how our language works. Students who struggle with grammar rules and definitions of words are provided with support by giving the area of concern in a student's writing and then explaining, not just automatically fixing. It requires students to read the "why" of the rule. It is a free extension of Chrome. www.grammarly.com
- textHELP's Read&Write program offers free accounts for teachers with option to sign in from any device. The software runs as a bar that floats above other program windows. It has a number of reading, study, and language support features such as:
  - The text-to-speech function, with word-synchronized reading of text in almost all programs
  - Multiple kinds of dictionaries, including a picture dictionary (great for language disabilities)
  - Multiple ways to scan media into readable text (including taking a digital photo)
  - Note-taking by highlighting and extracting highlights
  - Research tools including a fact finder and fact folder (that captures and organizes notes with formatted citations)

Knowledge Constructors:
Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others. *ISTE Student Standards: https://www.iste.org/standards/for-students.*

Supporting Students with G-Suite

G-Suite allows students to:

- take notes
- highlight information that is pertinent to the text
- color code the structure of text
- comment on text as they would using an annotated bookmark (i.e., structure)
- have text read aloud

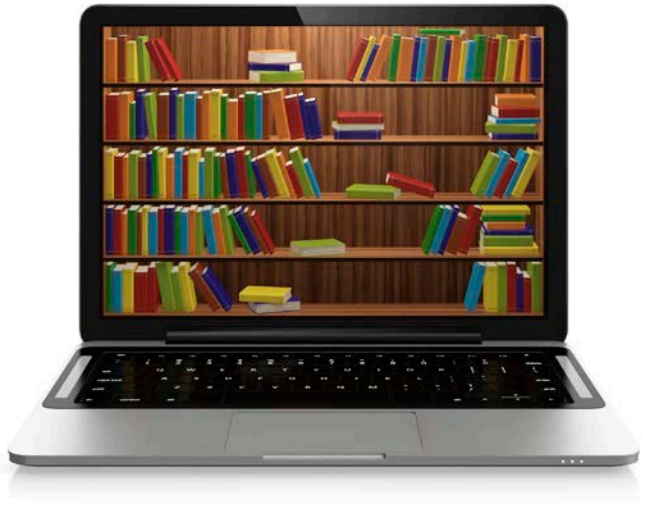
More advanced options are to:

- scan a page of text into the application
- use documents to build a vocabulary journal
- collaborate with others
- build presentations with images or audio
- add text features
- provide or read feedback with teacher or peers.

Most items are Add-ons in an existing Google account: www.gsuite.google.com

Content Area Support

Apps and Sites to Assist Students with Navigating Texts



When asking students to navigate some of the complex tasks and texts, it can be challenging but even more so for struggling learners. The following suggestions support a few concepts that are inherent in most content area classrooms:

Communication tools:

Buncee is a multipurpose tool where students create digital stories and presentations, which can be shared to a collaborative board for commenting and learning. An all-in-one technology empowers users to easily create, and share visual representations of content, across grade, age and learning levels. Buncee is a one-stop-shop to build media-rich lessons, reports, newsletters, presentations but does have a cost associated. There is a free 30 day trial which may suffice for one unit.

Analyzing data tool:

CODAP (Common Online Data Analysis Platform) is an easy-to-use data analysis environment designed for grades 5 through 14. CODAP can be used across the curriculum to help students summarize, visualize, and interpret data, advancing their skills to use data as evidence to support a claim. Students can load their own data to create their own datasets, share visualizations, and discover data-driven insights. In the process, they will learn to understand the world through its data. https://codap.concord.org/for-educators/

Collaborating on projects:

- Microsoft Classroom has a collaboration space that encourages students to work together as the teacher provides real-time feedback and coaching.
- Google Classroom enables posting, commenting, and the facilitation of classroom discussions.
- Edmodo provides a digital space where students and teachers can interact in a safe learning network. Edmodo facilitates access to resources, promotes global collaboration and fosters the development of digital citizenship skills.
- Canvas from *Instructure* allows students to reflect and collaborate with peers. Teachers can also use the platform to communicate with student teams.

Join us at www.ilclassroomsinaction.org: K-12 resources specific to Illinois Learning Standards implementation in ELA, Math, Science, Social Emotional Learning, and Social Science.