

# Building Strong Reading Lessons Using OER

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# Agenda

Poll

What is OER?

ReadWorks mini tour

CommonLit mini tour

Strengths and Weaknesses

Flexible strategies

Practical considerations

Resources

Q&A

# Poll

If you are not currently teaching, you can answer on behalf of your program or the teachers that you'll be sharing this information with.

# What is OER?

OER = Open Educational Resources

teaching, learning, and research materials that are either (a) in the public domain or (b) **licensed** in a manner that provides everyone with free and perpetual permission to engage in the **5R activities**. (retain, reuse, revise, remix, and redistribute) <https://creativecommons.org/about/program-areas/education-oer/>

**...however...**

Free resources that teachers can use, adapt, and share with students

# ReadWorks Mini-Tour

- Search for a text
- View options for assignment
- See class progress

9:36 91%

Assignments Library

## Sample Class

Online Offline

Assignments To Do Submitted Assignment >

**Go to Your Library**

Where you can read about the topics you're interested in and discover something new!

Let's go!

**Assignments To Do**

June 11, 2021

**Taken by Surprise**

Download

June 30, 2021

**Inside and Outside Carlsbad Caverns**

9:38 91%

Passage SR1 Questions

Imagine watching hundreds of thousands of bats swirl around you, swarming to form a large, black mass that flies off into the horizon. At Carlsbad **Caverns** in New Mexico, this scene is a regular occurrence. The **caverns**, located in a United States National Park, are home to around 400,000 Mexican free-tailed bats that fly out into the night sky each evening at dusk to feed on nearby moths and insects, returning at dawn to their caves. The spectacle draws crowds from around the world into the Chihuahuan Desert, where the park is located. One such visitor was Laurel Mathews, who once visited the caves with her family on a road trip.

“At the entrance to one of the caves,

9:37 91%

**cavern**

noun

definition: A cavern is a very large cave. A cave is a natural hollow place in the earth. A cave can be big enough for a person or animal to go inside, but sometimes it is very small. A cavern is big enough for people to walk around in.

*We walked inside the cavern and saw the river that passed through it.*

*The caverns, located in a United States National Park, are home to around 400,000 Mexican free-tailed bats that fly out into the night sky each evening at dusk to feed on nearby moths and insects, returning at dawn to their caves.*

Spanish: caverna  
Chinese: 大山洞

Powered by Wordsmyth

9:39 91%

You submitted this assignment

Results Passage SR1 Questions

## Comprehension Questions

10 questions

**Your Results:**  
**Multiple Choice: 6/7 (86%)**  
**Written Response Needs Grading**

1 According to the passage, what currently lives in the caves at Carlsbad Cavern National?

A Native Americans

B **bats**

C bears

D explorers

readworks.org/student-workspa

# CommonLit Mini-Tour

- Search for a text
- View options for assignment
- See class progress

2:16 100%

# MY ASSIGNMENTS

## ASSIGNMENTS TO DO

### SAMPLE CLASS

**I WENT FROM PRISON TO...**

This assignment is due 06/30/2021.

**BASEBALL'S GIRL UMPIRE**

This assignment is due 06/30/2021.

## GRADING IN PROGRESS

### SAMPLE CLASS

**THE PLYMOUTH THANKSGIVING...**

This assignment is due

commonlit.org/en/students/stud

2:16 100%

Dr. Stanley Andrisse is the executive director of From Prison Cells to PhD, Inc. This organization helps formerly incarcerated people obtain higher education. He is also Assistant Professor of Medicine at Howard University. In this informational text, Dr. Andrisse discusses access to high education for people who are, or previously were, incarcerated.

As you read, take notes on how education can affect someone who was or is incarcerated.

**GOT IT**

Dr. Stanley Andrisse is the executive director of From Prison Cells to PhD, Inc. This organization helps formerly incarcerated people obtain higher education. He is also Assistant Professor of Medicine at Howard University. In this informational text, Dr. Andrisse discusses access to high education for people who are, or previously were, incarcerated.

As you read, take notes on how education can affect someone who was or is incarcerated.

ACTIVITIES

commonlit.org/students/s

2:17 100%

world-renowned medical institutions — Johns Hopkins Medicine and Howard University College of Medicine — I believe this move is a positive one. People's prior convictions should not be held against them in their pursuit of higher learning.

While I am enthusiastic about the decision to remove the criminal history question from the Common Application, I also believe more must be done to remove the various barriers that exist between formerly incarcerated individuals such as myself and higher education.

I make this argument not only as a formerly incarcerated person who now teaches aspiring medical doctors, but also as an advocate for people with criminal convictions. The organization I lead — From Prison Cells to PhD — helped push for the change on the Common Application. **Q1**

ACTIVITIES

READ ALoud TRANSLATE

2:30 100%

Arabic (العربية)

## ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?

- A "The U.S. accounts for less than 5 percent of the world population but nearly 25 percent of the incarcerated population around the globe." ( Paragraph 8)
- B "By age 17, I was moving substantial amounts of drugs across the state of Missouri and the country. By my early 20s, I found myself sitting in front of a judge and facing 20 years to life for drug trafficking charges." ( Paragraph 11)
- C "Based on the difficulty I experienced in going from prison to becoming a college professor, I believe there are things that should be done to remove barriers for incarcerated or formerly incarcerated people who wish to pursue higher education." ( Paragraph 20)
- D "This program is at-risk of being discontinued at the end of 2018. Historically, some have argued that allowing Pell dollars to be used by those in prison takes precious Pell dollars from people who did not violate the law." ( Paragraph 23)

BACK SAVE & NEXT

commonlit.org/students/s



# Making use of strengths

- Use search tools to choose appropriate readings (level and topic)
  - Use Lexiles, skills, and topics
  - Paired texts
- Student supports
  - Accessibility options: font size, highlighting, footnotes, etc. (similar to GED, HiSET, TABE...)
  - Read aloud
  - Differentiation
- Assign--and build on--the questions
  - Use their questions!
  - CommonLit: guided reading and discussion questions
- Use the teacher tools
  - Give students individual feedback
  - Look for class-wide trends

# Filling in the Gaps

- Provide instruction in reading strategies
  - Encourage multiple readings
  - Provide guiding questions
  - Use think-alouds
  - Pre-teach skills that students can apply in the reading (ex: text structure)
- Create tasks geared toward a focus standard
  - Additional questions
  - Writing/speaking assignments
  - Highlighting and graphic organizers

# Flexible Strategies: Highlighting

Give students a specific highlighting assignment:

*Highlight the author's 4 main reasons for supporting x. (Anchor 2)*

*Highlight evidence in favor of x in green and the counterargument in yellow. (Anchor 8)*

*Highlight words that show how the narrator feels about x. (Anchor 4)*

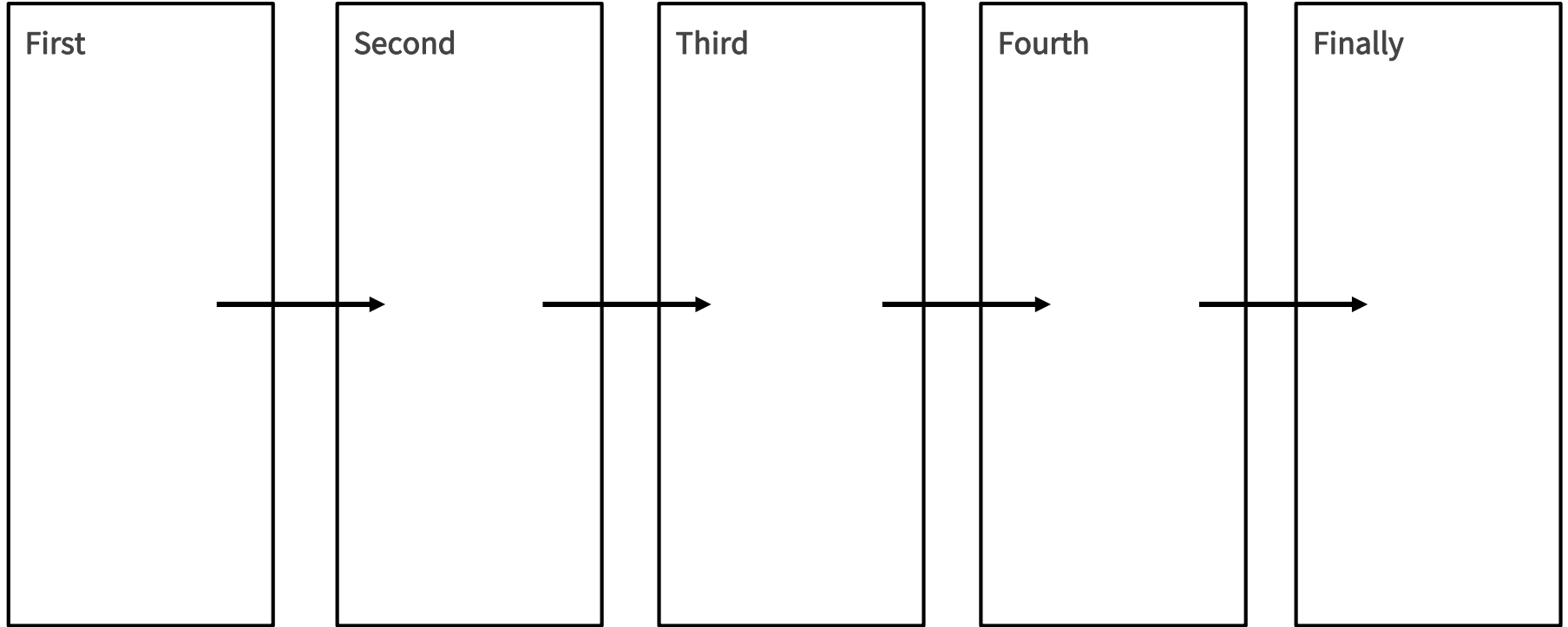
1. Model
2. Practice
3. Provide feedback

# Flexible Strategies: Graphic Organizers

- As an active reading tool
- As preparation for a conversation or extended writing activity
- As a comprehension assessment
- To prepare students for a future reading

*The best graphic organizers are simple enough that a student can easily sketch them out on a blank piece of paper.*

# Time Order (Anchor 3)



# Comparison (Anchor 9)

Article 1

Article 2

Similarities

# Evidence (Anchor 8)

<b>Author's point</b>	<b>Evidence (strong, medium, or weak?)</b>

# Practical Concerns

Getting to know a new resource

- What does “free” mean?
- Try a simple task first
- Look for help
- Pretend you’re a student
- Plan how you’ll introduce it



# Resources

- [Paadulthoodresources.org](https://paadulthoodresources.org)
  - professional development
  - guidance on counting hours from remote instruction
  - accessing approved asynchronous lesson plans
  - instructions for getting lesson plans approved
- [Readworks.org](https://www.readworks.org)
  - Check out the teacher manual and free webinars. There are also student-facing videos and handouts with instructions for logging in, etc.
- [Commonlit.org](https://www.commonlit.org)
  - Help is built in the first time you attempt a task. There's also a help chat on every page.
  - If you are the first person from your organization to create a teacher account, you may need to register your program's email domain. This happens pretty easily in most cases.
- [Comparison Chart](#)

Questions?

# Contact Information

If you would like a copy of this slide deck, please put your email in the chat.

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