

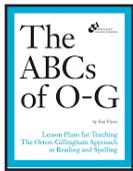
THE OG UPDATE

MAY 2022

MY GO-TO RESOURCES FOR PLANNING AND TEACHING OG LESSONS

(submitted by Mary Baumgarten, OG Tutor)

I am an elementary school teacher/OG tutor and I am so lucky to love what I do! As an educator, I understand the essential role that literacy plays in learning as well as how literacy is ingrained in all areas of our lives. Therefore, I strive to do whatever I can to help my students grow as readers and writers. Helping all of my students learn is truly important to me, and so being trained in the Orton-Gillingham (OG) approach has been invaluable. OG is an evidence-based approach that utilizes multisensory instruction to help students learn to read and spell more effectively. Each lesson contains the reading of: sounds, new words, sentences, and a story. Then, we move on to the spelling/writing of: sounds, words, and sentence dictation.



My go-to resources for planning are *The ABCs of O-G* by Emi Flynn and the Literacy Nest website by Emily Gibbons. *The ABCs of O-G* is a comprehensive teacher's guide to the Orton-Gillingham approach. It is filled with wonderful lessons as well as helpful information about best practices and procedures. I can always count on finding great ideas for my OG lessons in this book. The Literacy

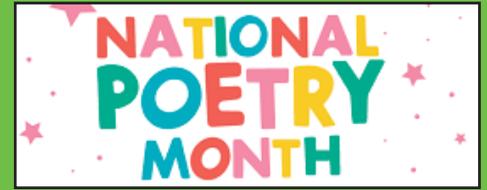
Nest is a website by Emily Gibbons. Besides having a blog filled with interesting reading and spelling topics, the website contains a library of resources that can be accessed by subscribers. As a subscriber to the Literacy Nest, I receive emails with helpful hints and suggestions for working with struggling readers. I look forward to receiving new emails from the Literacy Nest and often refer back to older emails that pertain to topics that I am currently teaching my students.



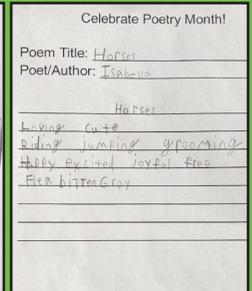
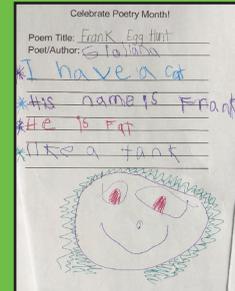
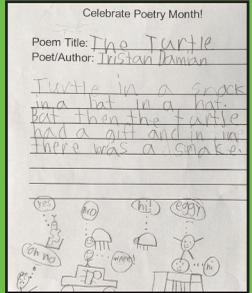
My go-to resources for teaching are Nessy videos, Spotlight on Phonics videos, and Zoom's Annotation feature. Nessy YouTube has a collection of short videos that clearly illustrate spelling and reading strategies for children. I enjoy using these videos because they are funny and engaging for students. It brings some more laughter into our lessons. Like the Nessy videos, I find that the Spotlight on Phonics videos are also engaging for my students. They use catchy tunes to introduce sounds as well as words that contain the focus sound.

Over the past two years, I have been doing a lot of virtual OG tutoring and therefore Zoom's annotation feature has definitely become a go-to teaching resource for me. It allows my virtual students to see me writing in real time as I provide direct instruction. It also allows students to highlight words, circle/underline letters, and spell words while writing directly on their screens. My students love writing on their screens! It is very engaging for them. It is via the annotation feature that I am also able to incorporate games into my virtual OG lessons. A favorite game of my virtual students is Reading Tic-Tac-Toe. It's so simple, yet so fun at the same time! I find that games work great for wrapping up an OG lesson. They are a fun way to review concepts.

While using the resources described above, I always try to remember the importance of OG being direct & explicit, multisensory, flexible, cognitive, and emotionally sound. By remembering these key characteristics, my lessons are meant to foster growth while meeting my students where they are. I am so proud of my students, and truly look forward to helping them continue to blossom with each and every OG lesson!



Thank you
Tristan,
Giuliana and
Isabella for
being our 1st
poets!



Literacy Nassau's OG Summer Intensive Program

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Learn all about our OG Summer Intensive program from the comfort of your home

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH AT 10:00AM

Contact Kate at kquijano@literacynassau.org to sign up



May 17: Office Hours with Karen from 7-9pm; email for ZOOM link
May 28 & 30: Office Closed for Memorial Day Weekend

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: TRISTAN

(submitted by Melissa Sansobrinio, OG Tutor)

Tristan is a bright 13-year-old that I had the pleasure of meeting in September. He is in 8th grade and enjoys video games, volleyball, and track. He is a more advanced OG student, so most of our lessons are focused on studying the structure of words. For the past few months, we have been examining Latin morphology, how it can help us build our vocabulary, and assist us in spelling complicated words. Eventually, we will also examine Greek combining forms and their influence on the English language, specifically in scientific words.

Tristan is an attentive and engaged student and has done very well learning these advanced linguistic concepts. Here is what he said when I asked him about himself and our OG sessions:

Tristan, our OG community would like to get to know you. Can you tell us a few fun facts about yourself?

I like to run track and play volleyball. Actually, a few years ago I made it to the Junior Olympics for track (I think I was in 5th grade).

What is your favorite and least favorite subject in school and why? My favorite subject is science. I like learning about different species. When I get older, I think I would like to do something in technology, possibly video editing or something like that. My least favorite subject in school is Social Studies. There are too many facts to learn and people's names to remember!

What is your favorite holiday and why? My favorite holiday is Christmas because we get to spend time with family, and we get presents. Halloween is probably my second favorite holiday.

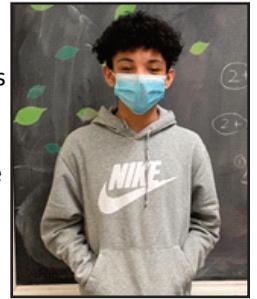
What are your plans for the summer? I'll be home this summer, but I might go to summer camp during the day. It will be the first time I've been to camp in a few years.

What facts or concepts do you remember most about our tutoring sessions so far? I liked learning about vowel teams, and how only certain vowels team up together to make one sound. Schwa (the "lazy" sounds that vowels make in unaccented syllables) was something I didn't know about before.

Are there any things that you have learned here that have surprised you? Also schwa! It's crazy how a word can be spelled so differently than it sounds.

What is your favorite topic that we have read about in our sessions? I like learning about animals, so I liked when we read the article about pandas.

Is there anything that you would like to learn more about going forward? I know you said that a lot of scientific words come from Greek. Since I like science, I'd like to learn more about this in our lessons.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JULIE

(submitted by MaryBeth Thomas, OG Trainee)

Julie is a bright, kind and enthusiastic second grader. She is 8 years old and lives with her sister and parents near the beach. It has been wonderful to be her Orton-Gillingham teacher. We began our lessons in November of 2021. Julie greets me with a smile, works very hard, and it is clear that she loves learning. She has a great sense of humor and an upbeat attitude. Laughter is an important part of our lessons. Julie was happy to share some of her favorite interests, hobbies and activities.



During recess at school, she likes to do imaginative play with her friends. She has fun running and chasing her classmates, during games such as tag. Sometimes she plays wall-ball (a group handball type of game). She also likes jumping rope, and going on the swings and slides.

Julie is creative and skillful. She enjoys painting, drawing, crafting and knitting. She learned to knit in first grade. Some of the things she has made are: a butterfly, a recorder case, a beautiful rainbow colored woolen hat, a doll, a gnome, and she is currently working on completing her lion. She recently painted a large, colorful easter egg, and has made a lovely drawing of a horse. Speaking of horses...

Julie loves horseback riding! She has been taking lessons since February. The horses she rides are Tonka, Nash, Blue and most recently Angel, who is a dark brown color. Julie enjoys her lessons and when asked about it she said, "I learned how to trot and walk. When you want your horse to go you have to squeeze your legs, but don't kick its belly or it will go crazy. You have to pull back the reins (but not yank them) to get it to stop." Also she loves caring for the horses, adding, "It's really really fun to comb the horses. I learned all the names of the brushes. First you get to curry-comb and do little circle movements, then you use the hard brush to comb the horse's hair just like how you comb your hair. Then you use the soft brush to smooth it out. It will be very very fun if you ever go horseback riding."

When I asked Julie what she wants to be when she grows up, she said, "I really want to be a horse trainer and someone who takes care of the horses at the barn. I also would like to be a chef, an artist, a dance teacher and a singer. It's really hard to choose what I want to be when I grow up. Mostly I want to do something with animals, because animals are my thing."

When asked what types of books she likes to read, she said, "I like to read books about horses with Mommy, and it's really really fun because I get to learn a lot about horses." Julie also likes to read the *Piggy and Gerald* book series.

When I asked Julie what she likes about having these OG lessons with me, she said, "Orton-Gillingham helps me read and know the rules of reading. It makes reading easier. Plus you make it fun with games, good stories and treats for me."

It has been great getting to know Julie and being her teacher!