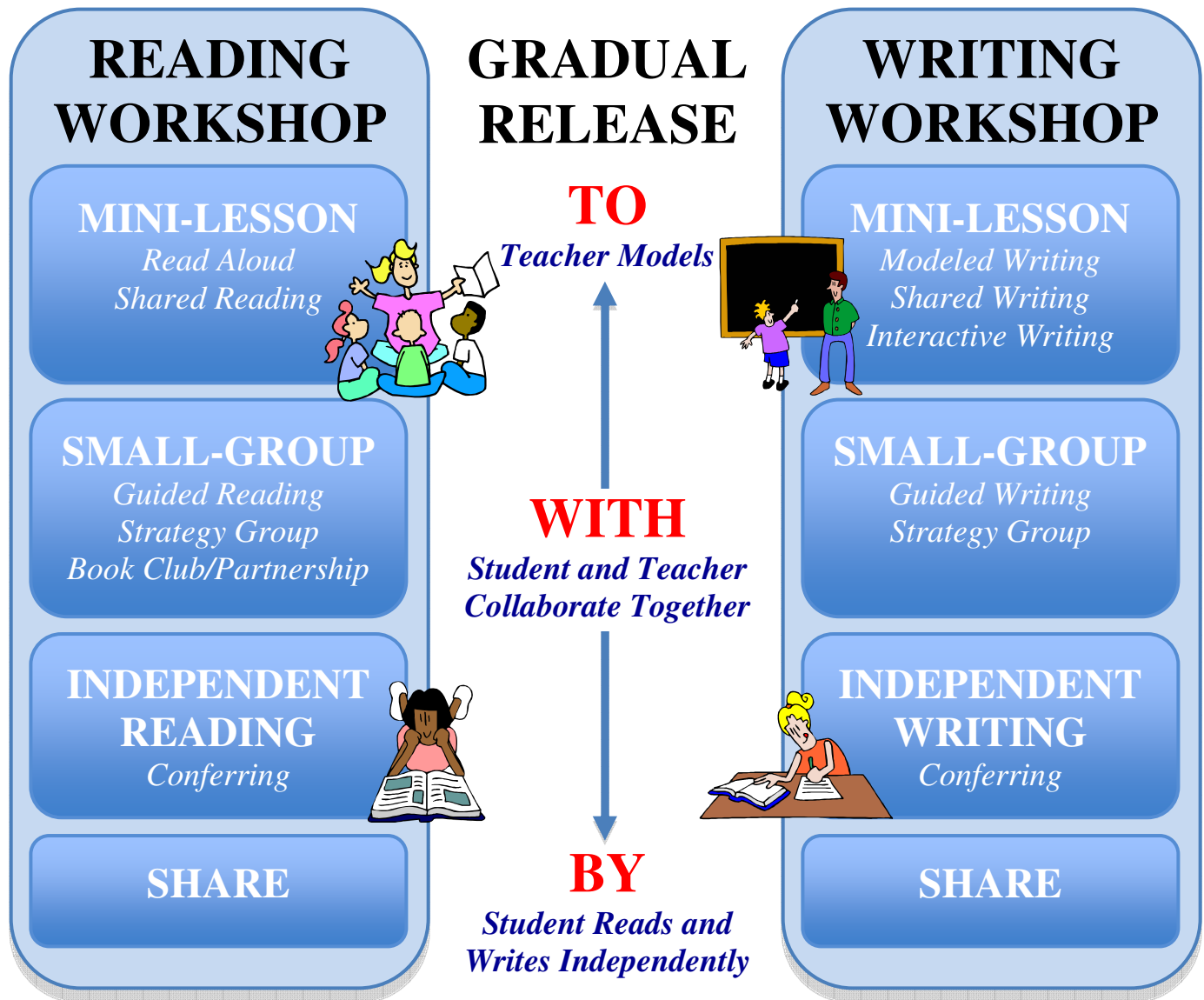


Balanced Literacy

A Framework of Components for Planning Instruction



A balanced literacy program blends explicit skill instruction with language-rich literature to foster the development of independent, fluent readers, writers, and communicators. A balanced literacy approach requires thoughtful decision-making. Teachers identify instructional needs through ongoing assessment and plan appropriate differentiated instruction. Learner-centered (student needs) and teacher-directed (grade-level TEKS and curriculum) approaches merge together to provide students with regular opportunities to engage in authentic reading, writing, and oral language activities. A comprehensive balanced literacy framework involves reading and writing *to* children, *with* children, and *by* children. Teachers gradually release the responsibility for learning to students.