



Reading Through Epic

Focus

The focus of my plan is to increase reading fluency and word recognition. Students will increase their reading fluency and word recognition by reading two books a week on Epic. They will also use Epic as a virtual library for independent reading time.

What is Epic?

It is a digital reading platform of popular books that students can read for free during school hours.



Why use Epic to increase reading fluency and word recognition?

Epic is a great resource to use for all students. This online reading platform helped us to reach all students this year because we were hybrid, virtual and in person. Epic gives students many different options to read books. This online platform reaches the needs of all students because students can read on their own reading level. Students can also choose the option to have stories read to them. Epic also gives students recommendations for books that interests them. Epic has quizzes after books to check for comprehension.



How I used Epic

Reading Goals

At the beginning of the school year we set a reading goal for all kids. This reading goal was to increase their reading fluency by reading with speed, accuracy and expression. Each student needed to read two books a week on Epic to reach their goal. This was a great way for students to practice reading even when they were virtual. This also allowed parents to be involved in their child's learning. Students felt like they were in control of reaching their goals because Epic allowed them to choose books that they were interested in and that they could read or listen to if they were a struggling reader.

How I Used Epic (continued)

Assigning Stories

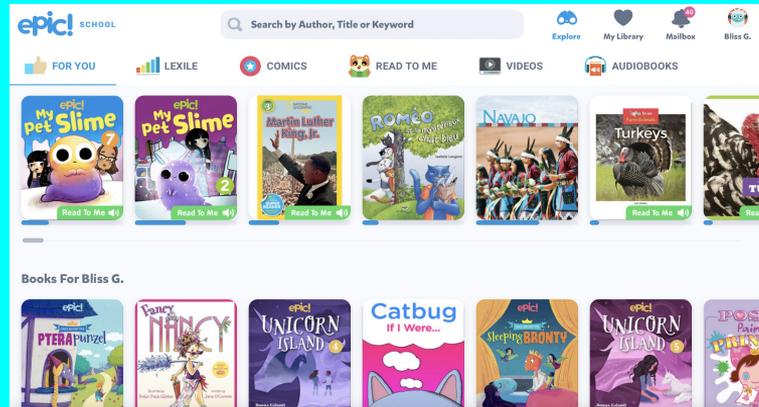
I assigned stories that covered what we were reading about in reading and theme for students to build a deeper understanding on what we were learning. For example, when we were learning about Native Americans, I assigned different stories to students. I individualized it by assigning books to students on their reading level.



How I Used Epic (continued)

Virtual Library

Due to covid, our classroom checkout system has become difficult to keep track of. So using Epic, students are able to read books on their chromebooks. They have access to over 40,000 books. They can choose to have stories read to them or read on their own.



How I Used Epic (continued)

Independent Reading Time

When students came back four days a week, I wanted to start something that would ignite that love of reading for them. We started “Adventure Time” for students to read independently. For this students must read on their independent reading level. This allows all students to be successful were assigned a lexile level to read on when using Epic. This lexile level came from their scores on STAR. This also helped them reach their reading goal.

Why do Students love it?

- They are introduced to books that they have never read before
- You can read books that you are interested in
- There are many books to choose from
- Easy access to books
- There is a “My Favorites” library where you can keep all of the books that you love
- They love the different genres of books
- They can listen to stories
- There are videos
- Teaches students to read by themselves without an adult
- They like the assigned books from the teacher. It is like a surprise!
- It is fun and entertaining!

Tracking Student Progress on Epic

ROSTER

DAILY READING

STUDENT LOGS

ASSIGNMENTS

QUIZZES

- On Epic I can see the class total of how many books the whole class has read and how many hours your class has spent reading.
- I also can look at the daily reading and student logs to see how many books read by each student and how long they spent reading that day.
- I like how I could look up assignments and quizzes and see who has completed it and the assignments that were assigned.

Benefits and Successes from using Epic

- 1) Parents became more involved with their child's reading using Epic.
- 2) Students loved reading more because they were in control of what they read!
- 3) Students can read on their own level!
- 4) Epic allowed me to assign stories to create a deeper learning by assigning books that are covered in any area that you are teaching
- 5) Easy to use for distance learning, hybrid and in person
- 6) It is convenient! It is an online library for students to read books and not have to check them out in the classroom.
- 7) Easy tool to use for reading goals
- 8) Teachers can track student participation in Epic. I tracked my student's goals each week on Fridays.
- 9) Based on Dibels testing results, at the beginning of the year we had 12 students score intensive on the oral reading fluency section. At the end of the year only 5 students are intensive.

Challenges

- Epic could only be used during school hours. This made it hard for when parents wanted to help with their student's reading goal and they couldn't use it after school hours.
- Students wanted to choose books that were very easy for them to read at first because they were interested in it. I wanted the book that they read to be on their independent reading level.