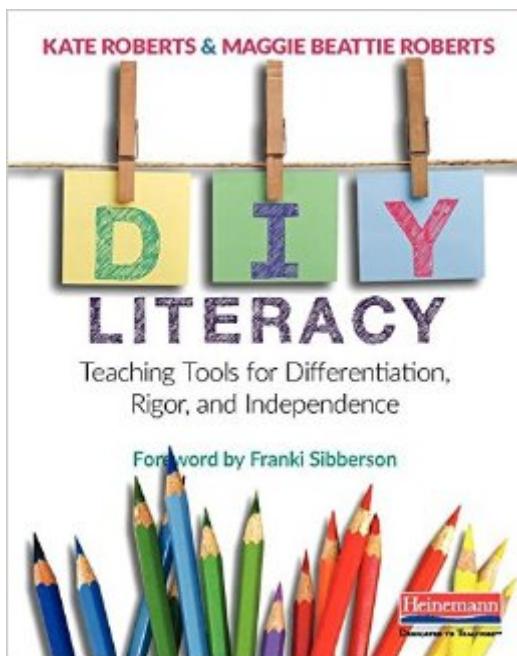


The book was found

# DIY Literacy: Teaching Tools For Differentiation, Rigor, And Independence



## Synopsis

"We have never seen teachers work harder than we do now. These tools inspire kids to work as hard as we are." -Kate Roberts and Maggie Beattie Roberts What's DIY Literacy? It's making your own visual teaching tools instead of buying them. It's using your teaching smarts to get the most from those tools. And it's helping kids think strategically so they can be DIY learners. "Teaching tools create an impact on students' learning," write Kate Roberts and Maggie Beattie Roberts. "They help students hold onto our teaching and become changed by the work in the classroom." Of course, you and your students need the right tools for the job, so first Kate and Maggie share four simple, visual tools that you can make. Then they show how to maximize your instructional know-how with suggestions for using the tools to: make your reading and writing strategies stick motivate students to reach for their next learning goal differentiate instruction simply and quickly. Kate and Maggie are like a friendly, handy neighbor. They offer experience-honed advice for using the four tools for assessment, small-group instruction, conferring, setting learning goals, and, most important, helping students learn to apply strategies and make progress without prompting from you. In other words, to do it themselves. "It is our greatest hope," write Kate and Maggie, "that the tools we offer here will help your students to work hard, to hold onto what they know, and to see themselves in the curriculum you teach." Try DIY Literacy and help your readers and writers take learning into their own hands.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 13 years

Grade Level: 3 - 8

## Customer Reviews

Kate and Maggie Roberts have written a wonderful book about how to make your teaching come alive in a classroom. No longer do you need ditto sheets, pre-made posters, or cardboard cutouts to teach reading and writing. Instead, Kate and Maggie teach us to channel our inner Etsy to help students learn to read and write at higher levels. Each chapter provides funny anecdotes, concrete examples, and wise tips for teaching literacy in elementary and middle school. A brief summary of each chapter: Chapter One explains the role of teaching tools, why we use them, and how they help kids learn. Chapter Two introduces the four main tools they present across the book: teaching charts, demonstration notebooks, micro-progressions, and bookmarks. They explain a little about each tool and show you how to make each one. "Bonus Chapter" gives tips and advice for how to find and create the teaching skills and strategies that go along with the tools. A MUST-READ chapter for teachers of reading and writing! Chapters Three through Five show you how to create tools that address major concerns for teachers across the country: independence, rigor, and differentiation. Chapter Six gives additional tips for making tools well. It describes predictable problems teachers and students face when making/teaching/using tools, and offers possible solutions to those predictable problems. Overall, the book is a helpful way to encourage teachers to become more invested in the teaching they do for their kids, making it more personal and engaging. My only bone to pick is that I wish they wrote more about how to TAKE AWAY certain tools once kids become independent learners who apply skills and strategies with automaticity. They address this a bit at the end of chapters 3-5, but I wanted more! Great book to read with your grade level team as a professional book club book. Bravo, Kate and Maggie!

The DIY Literacy book is a must have for all ELA teachers! Kate and Maggie have created an extremely user friendly resource for teachers. They have identified three main reasons our students struggle: memory, rigor, and differentiation. They then give us four tools that will help us guide our students through these struggles. Hands-on strategies and resources spill out of this fabulous book! A bonus chapter gives the reader additional resources! Another bonus, Kate and Maggie have videos to help us see the tools in action! They truly have our backs as they share their ideas with us. Follow #DIYLiteracy as well to hear all the great things teachers are doing in their classrooms!

Want all students to read at high levels? Want to differentiate and meet student needs? Want

students to be as independent as possible? If you answered yes to any or all of the questions above, this book is for you. Kate and Maggie will walk you through not only the WHYs for teaching tools but will also build your confidence in creating the tools yourself. You can begin with their tools but you will soon see other ways that you can create tools to improve student learning and independence. The goal is for students to improve their own independence in learning and this book will give you the necessary teaching tools. AND you can also follow #DIYLiteracy for additional videos that will feel just like personal conversations.

I was pleasantly surprised by how much I like this book. The authors have carefully thought out their information and approach. Their blog and Vimeo videos are a perfect match. Within a hour of opening up the book I was already applying some of their strategies. DIY Literacy is easy to follow and a solid 'go to' book for my professional bookshelf. As a teacher with over 24 years of experience in the classroom, Kate and Maggie offer solid advice that is built on the expertise of other well-known research and books. They take it to the next level and empower the teacher to find a way to create the tools themselves.

Using concrete examples, anecdotes, metaphors, and humor the authors of DIY Literacy share four simple, visual tools. Free of jargon yet rich in practical advice - including tips for going digital and clear-cut steps to create goals. The videos that are available online that bring the book alive are the icing on an already perfect cake. One of my favorite professional reads of 2016!

LOVE this book! Can't wait to use it next year with my new class!!

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