

Evaluation of the 2019 Reading Quest 'Reading is Magic' Summer Camp



In the period from June 3rd, 2019 to August 2, 2019, Reading Quest engaged 78 public school students entering grades 3-4 in an intensive literacy intervention. All of the students who were referred to the camp were identified by their teachers as needing serious remediation in reading.

Students were referred from 20 different schools. Many of these students were 1-2 years, or more, behind grade level in reading and many either had an IEP or were in the process of being evaluated for having specific learning disabilities. 72 of the students were English Language Learners. All but four students received free or reduced lunch at school. There were four two-week sessions with 20 students in the first, third and fourth sessions, and 18 students in the second session. There were 42 girls and 36 boys participating.

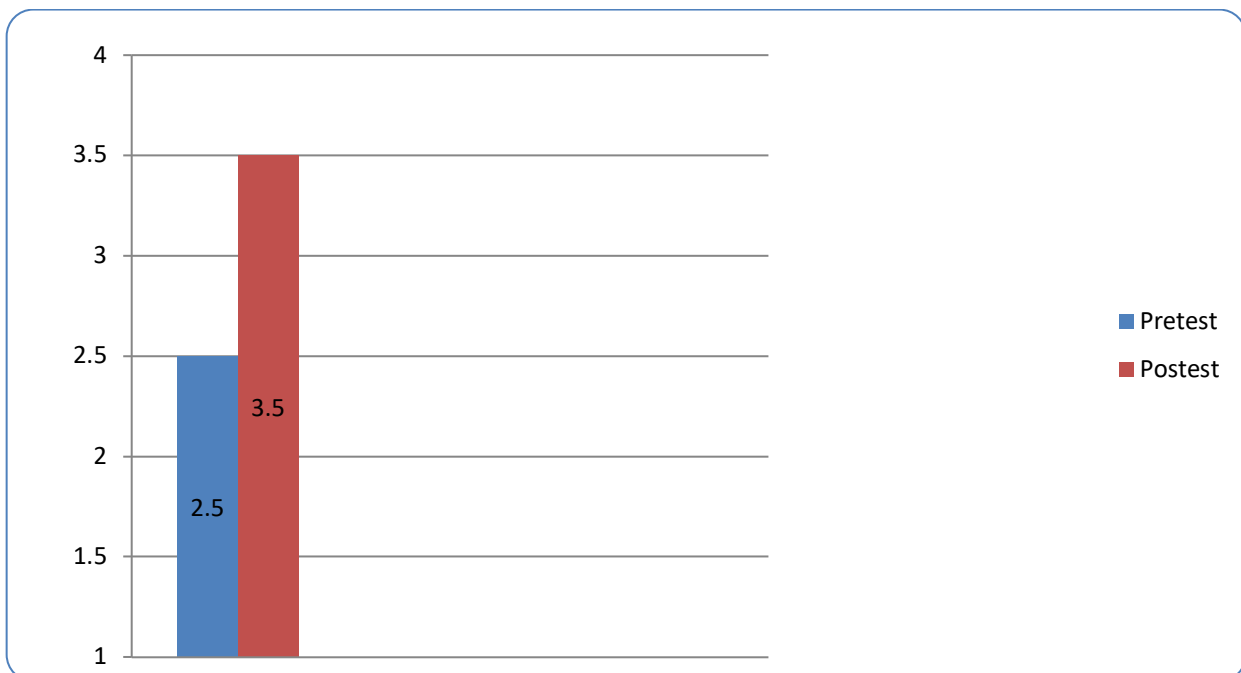
The summer camp - called 'Reading is Magic' - created an individualized reading program for each child that was supported by a wide range of hands-on activities and intensive phonics training. Each day the students learned new phonics rules and tricks and gained confidence in reading. They read aloud to teachers, played phonics-based active games and board games, such as Reading Baseball, Vocabulary Twister, Reading Jenga, and the Nitro Reading Road Race Game. Most of the activities and games used in the camp were games which could easily be adjusted for different student needs and reading levels. They sang songs about reading rules, used American Sign Language to learn the short vowel sounds, and wrote stories and plays. The camp created a motivating theme for the two weeks as each student worked their way through the levels of the 'Royal Road' and earned points by working hard in every activity to eventually become a knight, a princess, or a prince. Students earned flags, shields, swords, and crowns along the way. Each day was filled with fun reading-related activities and the students also completed homework that addressed their specific reading needs. Four master Reading Quest teachers and 22 experienced teen tutors were hired to teach during the camp. 100% of parents expressed extreme satisfaction with the program.

Before the camp began, the participants were tested to determine their beginning level of reading fluency. On the 9th day of each camp participants were tested again to measure their growth during the two weeks. Students were tested using the Oral Reading Assessment (ORA) developed by Edward Fry, PhD. The test involved students reading paragraphs of increasing difficulty and resulted in a score expressed as a grade level.

The average growth for all students during the two-week interventions was 1 year.



Reading is Magic Summer Camp at Sweeney 2019
Average Student Growth in Oral Reading (fluency and accuracy)



Oral Reading Growth Average: 1 year

