

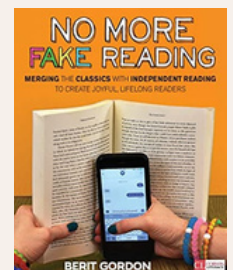
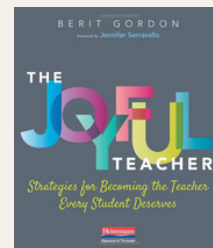
About Berit

Berit's teaching career started in the Dominican Republic, teaching 2nd, 6th, and 8th-grade students reading and writing. After moving back to the U.S., she taught Spanish at a private high school in Connecticut, and writing at the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth. Getting her Masters in Teaching English at the Teachers College of Columbia University then allowed her to teach in NYC public schools for many years. With great coaches, colleagues, administrators, and hard work, she went from a routinely struggling and overwhelmed teacher to an effective (on good days) and overwhelmed teacher. It is her dream to help more teachers land in the effective camp without being so overwhelmed.



Berit's work centers on creating classrooms that thrive; students who love reading, writing, and learning; and teachers who feel good at their essential work. Her workshops, coaching, and presentations at schools nationwide and in Canada are engaging, teacher-friendly, practical, and fun. Teachers tend to leave energized.

Her recent book, *The Joyful Teacher*, is a collection of tried-and-true strategies that empower teachers and help them quickly get to more high-impact teaching. Her other book, *No More Fake Reading*, offers solutions for boosting stamina, joy, and skills among adolescent readers.



Workshops and Keynotes

Workshops are modified for grade levels, content areas, and length. Half and full-day workshops include more strategies tailored to the group, in-depth opportunities to try strategies, and personalized checklists and resources.

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Teacher Growth and Success



Help New Teachers Thrive, Not Survive: 1 Framework and 10 Strategies

Get ahead of potential struggles for new teachers before they're overwhelmed, and before students miss out on a high-impact year. This doable framework and strategies for new teacher support sets them up to feel good and be good at their essential work, all year long. The moves all empower new teachers to problem-solve the hard parts of teaching and get to quick, energizing wins. Rather than slogging through the first years and becoming a turnover statistic, let's find ways to sustain our newest hires so they stay in teaching and so all of their students grow.

The goal is to help the new teacher feel good about teaching and stay in teaching by being good at teaching. This way, we set the tone for continuing to improve as lifelong educators. For now, here's how to give new teachers the foundation they need to thrive.

Say Yes to Growth, No to Burnout

We love our students, and we care deeply about our jobs. And we are stressed, exhausted, and overwhelmed. There is another way. We can choose mental and physical health as our first professional goal. If we take care of ourselves, we will have a chance to get better at all the other stuff, and we will have the time, patience, and energy to teach well.

Our students deserve thriving adults in their lives. When we access strategies that help us stay happy and healthy in a demanding job, students will experience our best teaching selves and see models of healthy ways to be in the world. This workshop will show you the way.

Participants will:

- Access current, practical, and research-backed strategies that prioritize your well-being so you can sustain yourself during the short term of teaching in a pandemic and for the long haul.
- Access, try, and choose from a range of up-to-date strategies for the short and long term, helping you and your school community to sustain good instruction by first taking care of yourself.
- Create a personalized plan for protecting what matters most (our mental and physical health) and end the endurance test approach to “getting through” the teaching year.



Get to a Well-Managed Classroom While Avoiding “Management”

Maybe your teachers have tried behavior charts, rewards, consequences, or calls home to "manage" unwanted behavior. These tactics may work for a bit. But it's likely that behavior soon unravels all over again. This workshop proposes a different way to think about classroom management. While we refer to the commonly used term management, it is precisely what this workshop helps teachers avoid. Through an overall approach and practical strategies, see how to establish student (and teacher) friendly routines, build relationships and mutual respect, and create a culture where everyone has a voice and thrives.

Participants will receive helpful self-assessment checklists to determine personalized goals around management and innovative, practical strategies and resources for addressing those goals. Help teachers establish this foundational part of a successful classroom, so their energy can be spent on teaching and students' learning.

This workshop will provide strategies that teach students how to treat themselves and others in healthy and empathic ways, create consistent and predictable routines that make students feel safe and help them take risks, support students and independently take on the learning, and foster long-term vibrant and caring communities. If that sounds like la-la land, believe that it can happen! If teachers can come together to create consistent routines and practices and foster relationships in their literacy classrooms, there's a huge payoff: a kind and responsible climate. Let's join forces to build a school culture we all want to be in.

Participants will:

- Rethink management by reflecting on reward and punishment systems that may work short term, but fail to build independence or decision-making skills.
- Learn routines that cultivate empathy and empower students, such as co-creating classroom norms, soft starts, calling "in" hurtful comments, teaching problem-solving, and many more.
- Identify the value of solid relationships with and among students and gain strategies such as identity webs, the dot activity, finding common ground with caregivers, and more.
- Leave with a personalized plan and differentiated strategies for avoiding "management" and creating a culture where everyone has a voice and thrives.

Strategies that Boost Student Independence and Engagement

The way for students to get better is to be the one doing. The ones doing the most (whether discussing, reading, writing, drawing, or problem-solving) learn the most. But simply handing over the reins is rarely that easy. Whether pressured to cover more information, reluctant to cede control, or unsure how to engage students, we stay at the helm. Unless we get students independently doing and trying, there's no space for us to pay attention to them- we're too busy talking! But with less leading comes more listening. Not to mention, student engagement soars.

Participants will:

- Reflect on typical pressures and obstacles that may keep us at the helm and students passive.
- Understand ways to shift that balance and get students doing and trying more and more.
- Acknowledge common obstacles to independence, whether students are 6 or 16, and solutions for each, such as building up to longer stretches of work, anticipating questions in advance, self-assessment checklists, removing invisible obstacles, sentence frames, anchor charts as silent teachers, and asking ourselves, "Can they do this?"
- Leave with a personalized plan and numerous strategies for shifting the balance so students willingly do more, take risks, and are active learners.



Teachers Need Strategies, Too! Practical Ways to Get to High-Impact Instruction and Problem-Solve the Hardest Parts of Your Job

How can we get the personalized support we need as teachers to nurture our long-term professional growth and avoid burnout in a demanding job? Let's avoid the all-too-common burnout trap of working tremendously hard without a sense of impact.

Knowing where to turn to feel good and even joyful in the teaching profession is overwhelming. One way to counteract the endless "how to's" and numerous challenges is to form a personalized teaching plan based on our most urgent areas of need and what students need most for engaging, learning, and growth.

Berit will provide a structure to help teachers set goals that work for their and their students' needs and access a host of practical strategies to meet those goals. Teachers will be empowered to choose goals using helpful self-reflection checklists.

Teachers will determine whether their instruction will benefit most from focusing on management, student independence and engagement, feedback and formative assessment, planning, or student talk and collaboration.

Then, they will chart a path to work toward them with strategies, activities, opportunities to learn alongside colleagues, and more. There will be a balance between choice and guidance, supporting participants to grow into their best teaching selves.

Participants will:

- Access current, practical, and research-backed strategies that prioritize your well-being so you can sustain yourself during the short term of teaching in a pandemic and for the long haul.
- Learn what to prioritize so your teaching has a more impact and feels manageable. See how to feel good at teaching by being more effective and using strategies to get there.
- Gain clear indicators to see if those strategies are working and helping you meet your instructional goals, as well as ways to work with colleagues so you are building consistency across classrooms and grade teams.
- Have multiple ways to get to high-impact instruction and meet your professional goals, as there is not one answer to good teaching, but many.

Literacy

How to Make “Non-Readers” Obsolete: It’s Easier Than You Think!

This workshop will provide engaging structures that get students reading at higher volumes and minimize AI and Sparknotes reliance. We’ll look at approaches that set students up for the high reading volume they’ll be expected to navigate independently in college and that support students who have lost (or never found) a love for reading. Through samples of student work, lesson plans, models, and other practical resources, participants will see the following: how to strengthen reading engagement and comprehension at all levels, encourage the habit of reading outside of class, blend the classics with contemporary texts, and address complex reading skills as well as reading for pleasure. The pace will be fairly swift, user-friendly, and engaging. Participants will leave with resources they can implement right away to help every student to succeed as a reader.

Participants will gain knowledge and skills in:

- Creating a culture of reading in your classroom and school
- Building school communities of lifelong readers
- Fitting in consistent time to read in our time-crunched periods
- Structuring and planning for book clubs
- Assessing readers in user-friendly and effective ways

Eyes to Print, Pencil to Paper

How to Build Stamina First, Then Tuck in High Impact Feedback That Moves Readers and Writers (And Doesn’t Exhaust Us)

The way for students to become better readers and writers is to be the ones doing those things. The ones doing the most (as shown by educators from Dewey, Montessori, Vygotsky, Fisher, Frey, Daniels, Harvey, Hattie, and more) are the ones learning the most. The volume of student reading and writing matters a great deal to get better at both. But simply handing over the reins is rarely that easy. Students are experts at avoiding what they don’t feel good at, and many have reading and writing muscles that atrophied or never became robust in the first place. They need help, and so do we!

This session will provide practical, high impact strategies to get readers and writers doing more. We will look at small and big moves that engage students, welcome even the most reluctant readers and writers, produce high volumes of work, and allow us to move to the next essential part of instruction: feedback. Once students are independently engaged, we have something to give feedback on, and we have the time and space to give that feedback right on the spot. Feedback is what enables us to move every reader and writer in the room, based on where they are at. The second part of this strand will focus on what quality feedback looks like, and how to make it immediate, specific, goal-oriented, and student-centered. We will look at how to make feedback have a high impact, but without spending countless hours outside of the classroom to make it happen. Again, there will be practical strategies, models, and resources to empower teachers to provide feedback that works. The workshop will be fairly fast-paced, highly practical, and as much as possible, fun. You will leave with things to try right away with your students so that they start the year building stamina, enjoying reading and writing, and doing lots of both.

This presentation will show and provide opportunities to quickly reflect on and try strategies for the following:

- Reflect on common obstacles that may contribute to students' reliance on our help, reluctance to read and write, or low stamina and motivation
- Chip away at those same problems with strategies that get students doing and trying more, regardless of their reading and writing levels
- Establishing routines and rituals that foster independence and the ability to work through a moment of doubt or struggle
- Observe and plan for ways to provide high-impact feedback for students based on where they are at
- Leave energized to try out practical strategies, based on what teachers and students need most

Breathing New Life into Literacy:

How to Turn “Non-Readers/Writers” into Skilled, Stamina-Driven Students

This session will provide educators with practical, user-friendly ways to motivate reluctant readers and writers without exhausting themselves. Our session will breathe new life into why we became teachers, reacquainting ourselves with the joy of authentic reading and writing and how to help students do the same. We will also focus on how to get our students to do more reading and writing on their own and why doing more matters. At the end, we will also look at ways to build a school-wide culture of literacy. The goal is that participants leave inspired, refreshed, and reinvigorated to help boost every reader and writer.

Participants will gain knowledge and skills in:

- Daily strategies that motivate even the most reluctant readers and writers
- Methods and examples for using quick writes, think-alouds, mentor texts, engagement inventories, high-interest texts, written conversations, book clubs, book buzzes, and more to generate energy and inspiration for every reader and writer in the room
- Assessment methods with high impact, that differentiate for students, and that don't take up teachers' valuable time outside of class
- Boosting students' independence, since to become better at reading and writing, they need to be doing those things with stamina
- Simple moves that can happen to create a schoolwide home for readers and writers

Practical Strategies to Get Your Students Writing with Gusto and Stamina

And How to Give High Impact Feedback Without Losing Your Weekends

If you tend to hear, "I'm done," after they've written just a few lines or words; "Is this good?" while they pass their writing to you to "check;" or, "How long does it have to be?" before you've finished sharing the assignment, this workshop is for you. This workshop will present easy-to-use methods to engage every writer in the room, increasing students' writing stamina and volume, lifting essential grammar skills, and, most importantly, helping every student in the room identify as a writer. Come see how to make the blank page inviting, not intimidating, for our students and how to make writing come alive.

We'll also look at ways to help you get all that writing back to them. High-impact feedback can do wonders in moving every writer in the room, but it doesn't have to eat up your weekends to get there. You'll leave with assessment methods that have an impact but aren't time-intensive.

Participants will gain knowledge and skills in:

- Daily strategies that motivate even the most reluctant writers
- Methods and examples for using quick writes, low-stakes writing, process pieces, think-alouds, mentor texts, shared writing, digital publishing, peer editing, and more in new ways to generate energy around writing
- Fitting it all in reading, writing, a bit of grammar, and talk: it's possible!
- Assessment methods that have an impact, differentiate for students, and don't exhaust us
- Simple moves that can happen to create a schoolwide home for writers

Pricing Guide

ONLINE EVENTS AND WEBINARS

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Travel

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KEYNOTES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

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\$3000-\$4000

