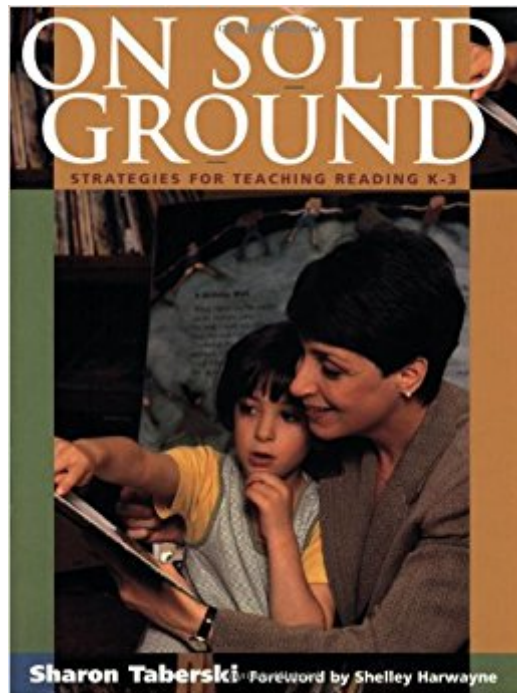


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# On Solid Ground : Strategies For Teaching Reading K-3



## Synopsis

Enter Sharon Taberski's classroom and enter a world where children take pride, take risks, and most of all, take reading seriously. It's not utopia by any means; Sharon deals with the same issues other teachers face: limited resources, tremendous diversity, and the constant threat of overcrowding. What makes her exceptional is her clear vision. She is systematic in her thinking, wise in her decision making. Most of all, she understands her role as a teacher and goals for each student. This is why Sharon is on solid ground. In her book, Sharon shares what she's gained in her twenty years of working with children and teachers. It's organized not around a set of prescribed skills, but around a series of interconnected interactions with the learner: **Assessment:** Sharon begins by describing her procedures for assessing children's reading and then using what she finds to inform her work. She covers scheduling and managing reading conferences, taking oral-reading records, and using retellings and discussions as tools. **Demonstration:** Once she has identified strengths and needs, Sharon demonstrates strategies to help her students become better readers. In this section, she explains how she uses shared reading and read aloud as platforms for figuring out words and comprehending texts, and explores small-group work - guided reading and word-study groups - and teaching children one on one. **Practice:** Here, Sharon describes how she uses independent reading as a time for practice, spelling out the very active roles she and her students play. She also devotes a complete chapter to matching children with books for independent reading. **Response:** It's important for students to know they're doing well and where they must concentrate their efforts. Sharon explains how her students use writing and dialogue as tools to better understanding themselves as readers. *On Solid Ground* is informed by current thinking, yet loaded with advice, booklists, ready-to-use reproducibles, and - of course - the words and work of real children. Sharon's approach is clear, sensible, timeless. You'll turn to her book throughout your career.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

This book truly does speak to both the new as well as the seasoned teacher. What I appreciated the most was the author's ability to "cut to the chase" in the area of teaching reading. I am especially excited about using the reading folder she uses to store both teacher assessments and student responses to reading. The section on what the "other kids are doing" while the teacher is working with a guided group was extremely valuable as was her description of SSR. I knew something wasn't quite right with my class SSR time, and this book not only identified the problem but provided a logical and do-able alternative. Whether a teacher is new and needs the basics of teaching literacy or is experienced and needs help pulling out what are the best teaching practices, this book is superb!

I have read dozens of professional books, but the difference between Sharon's and the others was that I came back to hers three times. And even though I've been teaching over a dozen years, Sharon has helped to clarify even further the hows and whys of helping all kinds of learners to read and write. She certainly comes across as a very hard working, skilled and successful individual. And yet, as mentioned in the forward by her own principal, Sharon makes the whole process seem really simple. I can't wait to get back to work and adapt some of her ideas to my own as she herself encourages the reader to do. I'm so glad I found this one, and I'm sure you will be too!

Whether you're a new primary teacher or a seasoned professional, you need this book. Sharon Taberski spells out, in clear, inspirational language, how she establishes and maintains her outstanding reading program throughout the school year, at the Manhattan New School in New York City. Her approach makes sense because she knows precisely what she is doing. She assesses her students continuously to determine their strengths and weaknesses, then uses what she learns to inform all of her teaching decisions, in one-on-one, small-group, and whole-class situations. In a

time when the right way to teach reading seems to be anyone's guess, it's refreshing to get a perspective from somebody who's in the trenches daily, cares so deeply about children, and is seeing results. Indeed, real reading is happening in Sharon Taberski's classroom. It's happening in mine, too, thanks to this book. And it can happen in yours.

Sharon Taberski really offers practical, useful, and inspiring information that all teachers need. If you are a new teacher she will provide useful ideas that can be used in all primary classrooms. If you are a seasoned teacher, she will re-energize you and provide new techniques to make teaching reading more interesting. Plus I love the fact that she stresses reading expository texts, this is truly essential in today's NCLB environment where standardized testing emphasizes expository texts. Sharon also does amazing things with her folders, you have to read it in order to truly appreciate it. I almost forgot to mention the reproducibles, even if you don't read the book, buy it for the reproducibles and the folder organizing ideas.

I have used the theories and practices from this book more than any other professional book I've read. I'm reading it now for the third time. Sharon Taberski's style of teaching is how I aspire to teach. Each time I reread a part of this book and apply something new, I get a little closer. I would recommend this book to new and experienced teachers!

After teaching for 22 years as a special ed. teacher, I read Sharon's book. It changed how I teach forever. Using Sharon's ideas, I decreased the amount of talking I do, increased the amount of reading my students do and saw tremendous change in even my most disabled students. One 4th grade student made 4 years growth in the first six months after I began to use Sharon's strategies and returned to her regular class. All students made significant improvements. I highly recommend her book and her ideas to every teacher of young children. You won't be sorry.

I am a first year teacher working in an elementary urban education classroom. I found this book to be a happy marriage between theory and practice. It is clear you are reading a book by a veteran teacher, not simply someone who theorizes about education. There are so many aspects to this book that I found useful. Taberski's chapter on assessing student needs and organization of classroom space were most helpful. Read this book and if you have a chance check out Sharon Taberski at one of her workshops - she is an inspiration to us all. Be sure to check out the appendices at the end of the book - great reproducibles there!

I am an elementary school teacher who has been out of the field for 12 years. I found this book invaluable in updating my knowledge and skills in the teaching of reading. Her approach makes so much sense and her techniques and ideas are appropriate and easy to use.

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