



# Removing Roadblocks to Reading: 10 Surefire Routes

by REGIE ROUTMAN



- 1. Provide more time and choice to read every day**—first priority: genres, nonfiction, fiction, graphic texts, comics, news articles.
- 2. Provide easier access**—include ebooks, audiobooks, and build a classroom library of culturally relevant literature—without leveling.
- 3. Require less writing in response to writing**
- 4. Encourage more book talk**—student, self-directed conversations; and book clubs (not just whole class).
- 5. Provide more time for sustained silent independent reading**— the mainstay of a reading program, it also includes monitoring through conferring—especially one to one, teacher-student to ensure students understand what they read—which is more likely with other the other nine factors in place.
- 6. Put guided reading in its rightful place**—students do most of the work; use guided reading as a temporary scaffold with flexible groups.
- 7. Do more reading aloud**—a highly effective way to introduce new books and authors, build vocabulary and conceptual knowledge, and inspire a love of language.
- 8. Ensure fluency for youngest readers**—use authentic literature with natural language, rereading, partner reading, Reader’s Theatre
- 9. Do more shared reading**—especially of student- and class-authored texts through shared writing.
- 10. Demonstrate the reading process**—model teacher as a reader: thinking aloud as you choose books, figuring out vocabulary, and demonstrating close reading, self-monitoring, rereading, questioning, strategizing, applying what we know, inferring meaning from text, and drawing from life experiences to deepen and extend meaning.

For full information on her work and resources, visit her website [www.regieroutman.org](http://www.regieroutman.org) and follow her on Twitter [@regieroutman](https://twitter.com/regieroutman)