

Episode 3: The Battle

President George W. Bush made improving reading instruction a priority. He got Congress to provide money to schools that used reading programs supported by scientific research. But backers of Marie Clay's cueing idea saw Bush's Reading First initiative as a threat.



EPISODE 3

Episode Length	Link to Episode	Link to Transcript
41:09	https://www.apmreports.org/episode/2022/10/27/sold-a-story-e3-the-battle	Printable Transcript
Additional Optional Materials	New reading laws sweep the nation following Sold a Story “Premortem” activity (from Page 6 of Lessons Learned? Reading Wars, Reading First, and a Way Forward)	

Questions and Topics for Discussing “The Battle”

Before Listening	What do you know about Reading First and what it was trying to accomplish?
While Listening	Who knew what about the problems with cueing? When did they know?
After Listening	<i>From a teaching perspective:</i> - What obstacles did Reading First face? - Has your perspective on Reading First changed after hearing this episode? In what ways? <i>From a parenting perspective:</i> - How would you like your child to be taught to read? Picture what you want and write down some words that come to mind. As you continue listening to <i>Sold a Story</i>, notice if your thinking changes. (We will revisit these words in the discussion about the next episode.) <i>From a community perspective:</i> - What role should the federal government have in how schools teach reading?

	- How can the story of Reading First be used to inform future initiatives? <i>From a student perspective:</i> - What did you think about the idea that only some kids need “word work”? - Were you in guided reading groups? What do you remember about guided reading?
Wrap Up	Why was there a battle over cueing?
Extend	Activity 1 - How does your state approach reading instruction? You might consider starting your research with this article: New reading laws sweep the nation following <i>Sold a Story</i> - Has there been any new legislation in your state regarding reading instruction? - What do the laws say? - Do you think these laws will help improve instruction? Why or why not? Activity 2 Consider the “premortem” activity (which comes from Page 6 of Lessons Learned? Reading Wars, Reading First, and a Way Forward) - How could a premortem help refine or improve a reading initiative proposed in your school, district or state? Organize a premortem for the stakeholders who are planning a reading initiative at your school or district. Before completing a premortem for an actual initiative, it may be helpful to familiarize participants with the process by doing a practice round. Margaret Goldberg wrote these scripts to facilitate role-playing and you may find them helpful if you want to do the same.  ARTICLE  PREMORTEM  EXCERPT  SCRIPTS

We’d love to hear about your *Sold a Story* discussion!

- Email us: soldastory@apmreports.org
- Leave us a voicemail message: (612) 888-7323