3 Minute Drill

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Good News

- Big, easy reading works.
  - It helps improve all language skills.
    - It makes you smarter.

Bad News
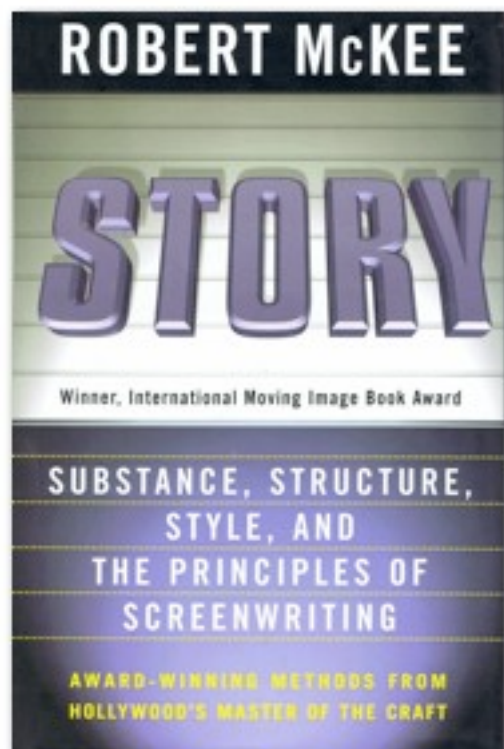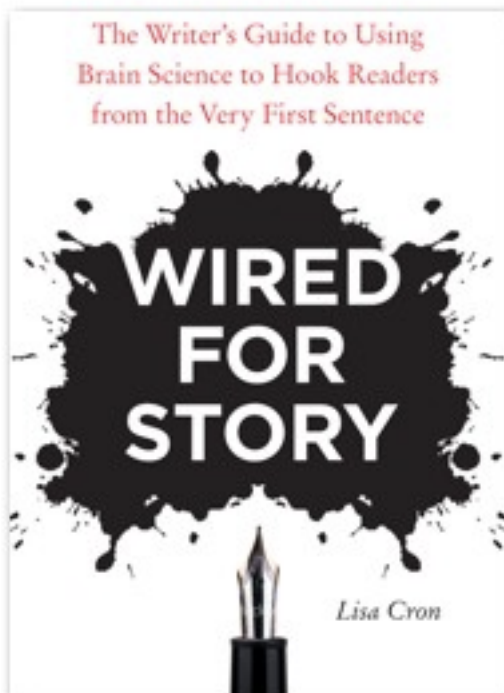
- **Students read hard.**
  - **Not Enough.**

The Question

- **The bigger problem is reading more.**
  - **How can we get students to read more?**

Some Answers

- Require.
  - Pressure.
    - Inspire.
      - Teach story grammar.

Teach Story Grammar

The Writer's Guide to Using Brain Science to Hook Readers from the Very First Sentence

WIRED FOR STORY

Lisa Cron

ROBERT McKEE

STORY

Winner, International Moving Image Book Award

SUBSTANCE, STRUCTURE, STYLE, AND THE PRINCIPLES OF SCREENWRITING

AWARD-WINNING METHODS FROM HOLLYWOOD'S MASTER OF THE CRAFT

Teach Story Grammar

- **Story Grammar**
  - **Character + Predicament + Attempted Extrication.**
    - **The Storytelling Animal by Jonathan Gottschall**

The 3-Minute Drill

- **Besides, pressuring, requiring, inspiring, and teaching story grammar, you can try the 3-minute drill.**
  - **The idea: "Getting started is half the job."**
    - **Read for at least 3 minutes per day.**
   - **Trick or kickstart yourself into reading more.**

Background & Method

- 79 Intermediate University students.
  - 3 classes.
    - ER is 30% of their grade (word counts).
    - Spring term, no 3-minute drill.
    - Fall term, 3-minute drill from 12/6-1/17.

The Form

Instructions

- **Carry the 3-Minute Drill form.**
  - **Read at least 3 minutes daily.**
  - **Write your total for each date.**
  - **Write your totals.**
    - **Turn in by DATE.**

Points

- **3 Minutes a Day Points**
  - **40 Days = 10 points**
  - **35-39 Days = 9 points**
  - **30-34 Days = 8 points**
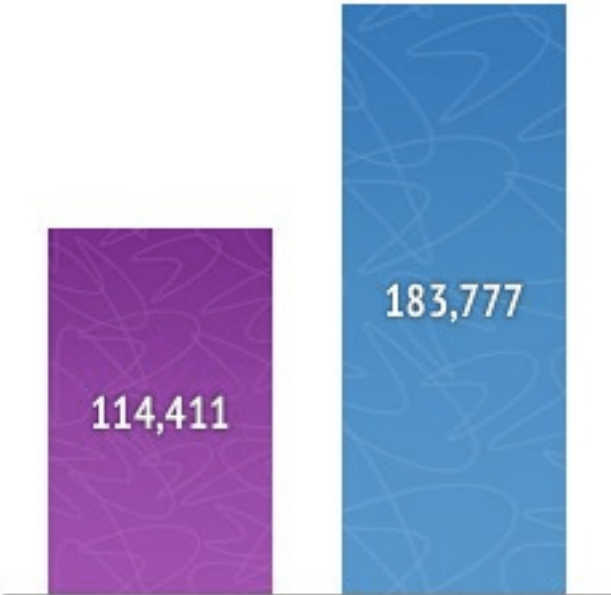 - **25-29 Days = 7 points**
  - **20-24 Days = 6 points**
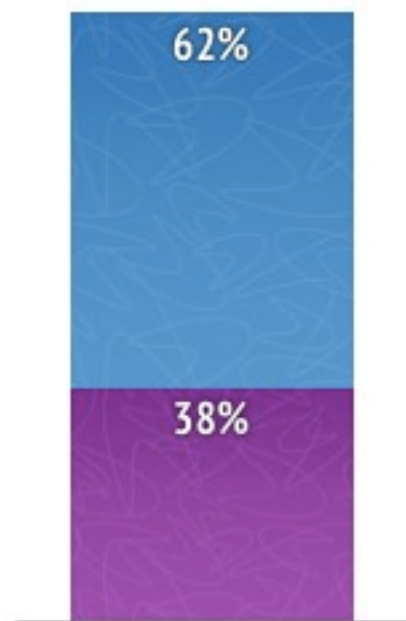
Results: Total All Students

Spring ■ Fall

Spring: 9,038,501
Fall: 14,518,362
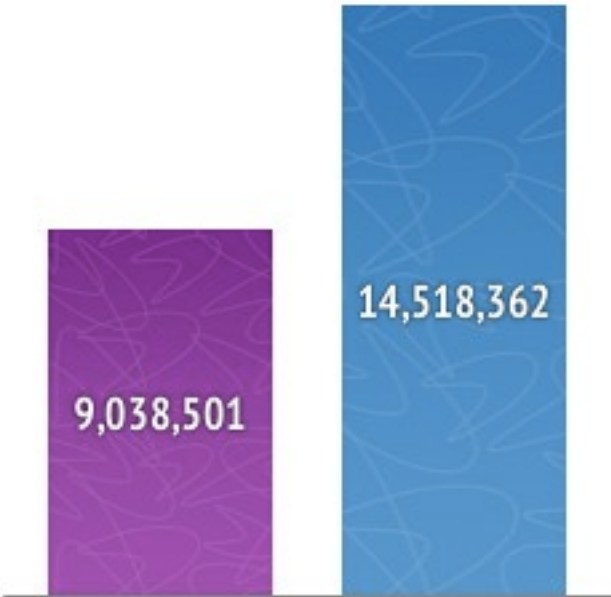
Results: Total Per Students

Spring ■ Fall

Spring: 114,411
Fall: 183,777

Increase Per Student

■ Total ■ Increasse

62%

38%

Interpretations

- **Students just got better.**
  - **3-minute drill had no influence.**
- **Students inflated self-reported word counts.**
  - **They worried about grades and gave into pressure.**
- **Other?**
- **Students read more because…**
  - **The 3-minute drill kickstarted their reading.**

Future Research

- **How can we check to see if it really works?**
  - **Cross-check with questionnaires.**
  - **Do it first term, not last term.**
    - **So that getting better doesn't impact results.**
  - **Split the classes into groups (+ & - drills).**
  - **Vary the length of the drill.**
  - **Compare word counts with drill results.**