**ED 650 Final Reflection: Due October 18th**

Considering all that you have learned in ED 650, reflect upon how you would potentially incorporate what you have learned as a prospective reading teacher or reading specialist in the future. Specifically, what are your favorite strategies? How will you be a compass for students and staff in the future?

At first I struggled with relating to the material we were researching because I teach first grade and the course is specifically designed to build content area reading in middle and high school. After a mind shift on my part and a lot of additional research, I discovered that my elementary background is actually applicable. The middle and high school learner still needs to be learning in a real world environment and applying what they learn. Hands-on activities can and should be used in the upper grades. My experience and training in this area made making connections to the upper grade reading strategies easier for me. I feel more prepared to help teach teachers develop reading strategies in the upper grades as well. Classroom Strategies for Interactive Learning by Doug Buehl will definitely be a go to resource for me as I continue my journey toward becoming a literacy coach. I also feel more confident in assisting teachers in developing text sets for their classroom. This class has given me the confidence and tools to move forward with filling the gap I had with teaching reading in the upper grades.