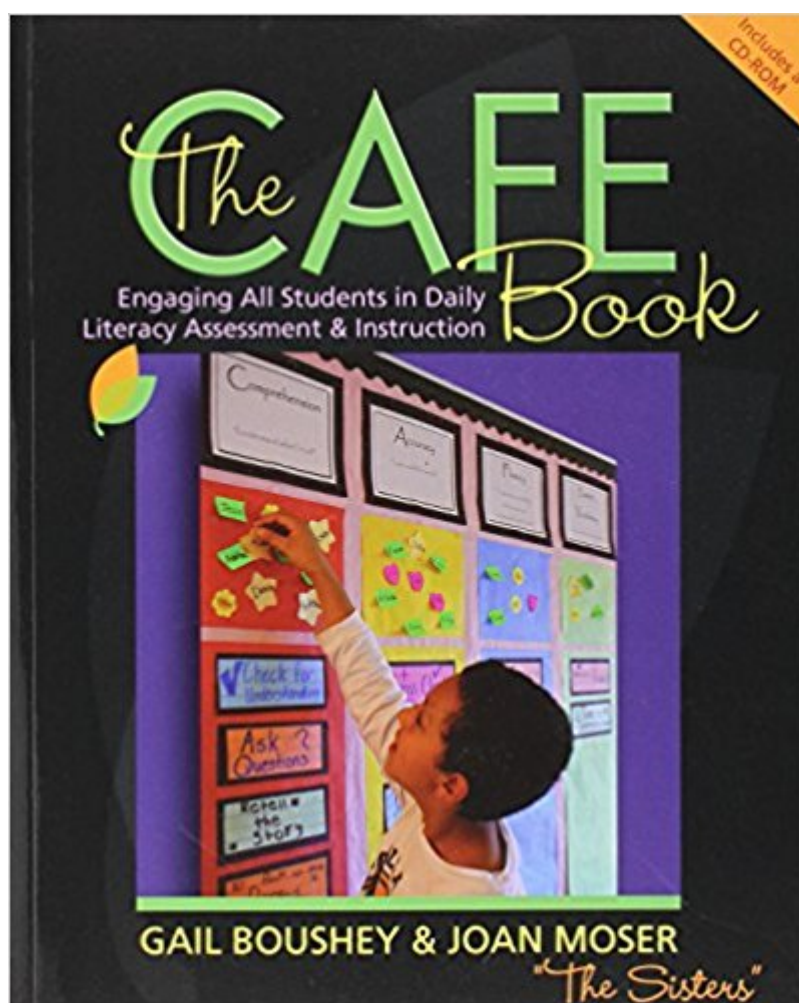


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# The CAFE Book: Engaging All Students In Daily Literacy Assessment And Instruction



## Synopsis

"All readers of any age need instruction and support that helps them become more independent and self-reflective in their work." — Gail Boushey and Joan Moser

In *The CAFE Book*, Gail Boushey and Joan Moser present a practical, simple way to integrate assessment into daily reading and classroom discussion. The CAFE system, based on research into the habits of proficient readers, is an acronym for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, and Expanding vocabulary. The system includes goal-setting with students in individual conferences, posting of goals on a whole-class board, developing small-group instruction based on clusters of students with similar goals, and targeting whole-class instruction based on emerging student needs. Gail and Joan developed the CAFE system to support teachers as they:

- organize assessment data so it truly informs instruction;
- track each child's strengths and goals, thereby maximizing time with him or her;
- create flexible groups of students, all focused on a specific reading strategy; and
- help students remember and retrieve the reading strategies they learned.

The CAFE system does not require expensive materials, complicated training, or complete changes to current classroom literacy approaches. Rather, it provides a structure for conferring with students, a language for talking about reading development, and a system for tracking growth and fostering student independence. The CAFE system's built-in flexibility allows teachers to tailor the system to reflect the needs of their students and their state's standards. And it's a perfect complement to *The Daily Five*, "The Sisters" influential first book, which lays out a structure for keeping all students engaged in productive literacy work for every hour of every classroom day.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The CAFE Book would be a great resource for teachers looking to try a new approach to teaching literacy." - Education Review

Gail Boushey's work as a literacy coach and author is based on her classroom experiences, which range from preschool through grade six and special education. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education, Child Studies and Special Education and has a Master's degree in Special Education. "I want what every teacher wants: effective teaching methods that can adapt as things change, and to lead our children to a lifetime of learning." Gail has three daughters and enjoys concerts, camping, reading, and cooking. Joan Moser's passion for meeting each child's individual needs by discovering where they are and guiding them forward has been practiced and refined in a variety of classroom settings. She has taught kindergarten through sixth grade, special education, and is a certified Reading Resource Specialist. Joan obtained her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Development and her Master's degree in Reading. When her nose isn't buried in a book and her fingers aren't flying over the keyboard writing, you will likely find her golfing, gardening, or hiking with her husband and her puppy.

This is a great book for teachers! I am currently earning a degree in elementary education and my instructor used this book in my reading methods class. My local school district uses this book along with The Daily 5 book to guide reading instruction in the elementary schools. I really liked the idea that we were reading and talking about the same text that our local teachers were using. I loved being able to go into my field experience that semester and see The Cafe on the wall and know what it was all about. It will be an even greater resource when I student teach in this school system this year. This book gives all the details, forms, and everything else that you would need to implement it in your own classroom. This book is definitely a keeper and will be a great resource in my future classroom!

This book is a great follow up to the Daily 5 that I read last year. It is nice to see how someone puts

together small groups and how to organize and manage them. The CD with all the forms to print is very helpful as well. Ideas are well explained and laid out. The Sisters are wonderful. This is great to fit in with our current literacy program at school to differentiate for all learners.

I liked how easy going the authors were and didn't pressure you to fall 100% into agreement with them. They gave suggestions for slowly integrating CAFE into your schedule and examples and forms to use. I also like that they have a website that continues to add on to their ideas.

The Cafe Book outlines a system for individualized and group reading instruction, assessment, and management that the Two Sisters (Gail Boushey and Joan Moser) created and implemented with revisions over a number of years. It gives basic overviews of record-keeping, coaching, mini-lessons and other routines that users of this instruction need to get started. The Cafe Literacy system works with the Daily Five program, also created by the Two Sisters.

This book was a mandatory read by my principal. It was a good book and very helpful if you are going to use this method.

I really liked this book. I read it after "The Daily 5" (it's the companion book). It gave great ideas for being organized while conducting assessments during literacy blocks. It has great forms and explanations for using them to keep track of student progress and organizing small groups with students needing similar instruction (not just by reading level but by skill needs). Even though I may not implement Daily 5 exactly by the book, I will use the ideas from Cafe for assessment for sure.

Great resource for teacher looking to help their students be more independent.

I'm not much of a follower of "canned" programs, but the Cafe is not that. It's the first time that any organized process for conferring with independent readers has been successful for me. It works well as the companion to the Daily Five, but can also be implemented on its own.

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