In this day and age of constant change, having a solid understanding of your basic beliefs about what it means to teach reading is critical. Michelle will highlight Debbie Miller’s book *Teaching with Intention*, and we will discuss how to examine theories, fads, and mandates (phonics, whole language, DIBELS, guided reading, Daily 5, novel units, CAFÉ, common core, etc.) through the lens of our beliefs.
My goals:
- You will feel uplifted.
- You will get to SHARE some of your BEST stories.
- You will get to HEAR some of the BEST stories.
- You will think about what it means to teach with intention
- You will think about your beliefs as a teacher.
- You will find new resources to help you on your path to intentional teaching.

AND...
- You will NOT leave feeling like this:
Meet Debbie

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPPLDIKkRnl

You will find new resources to help you on your path to intentional teaching.
You will find new resources to help you on your path to intentional teaching.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWXwziQEAa8&list=PLE99A8E92302AF8B9
WRITE:

- Think of a great teacher you had when you were in school.
- Describe what the teacher or classroom was like.

UNDERLINE:

- Key words you used in description.

SHARE:

- Your list of key words with a partner or two. Have ONE person compile a list of characteristics on a separate sheet of paper to display in the room.

REFLECT:

- In what ways are you similar to your favorite teachers?
- What is an area you could work to improve?

You will feel uplifted.
You will get to SHARE/HEAR some of the BEST stories.
It’s PEOPLE, not programs.

Dr. Todd Whitaker
Book/DVD series

IT’S PEOPLE, NOT PROGRAMS!
What are current trends/buzz words in teaching reading?
Will any of these programs “fix” education? What WILL?

You will find new resources to help you on your path to intentional teaching.
YOUR attitude determines the atmosphere of your classroom.

YOUR attitude determines whether or not you grow as a teacher.

YOUR attitude determines if you are joyful and productive or vindictive and stuck in a rut.

YOU MATTER!

- Take care of filling your own bucket! 😊
- You Matter sites:
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FHzHUzRnms

You will feel uplifted.

You will find new resources to help you on your path to intentional teaching.
"I’ve come to a frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element in the classroom. It’s my personal approach that creates the climate. It’s my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher, I possess a tremendous power to make a child’s life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated and a child humanized or dehumanized."

You will feel uplifted.
Why should you take time to define your beliefs?

- “I’m convinced that success in the classroom depends less on which beliefs we hold and more simply on having a set of beliefs that guides us in our day-to-day work with children. Once we know who we are and what we’re about in the classroom, we become intentional in our teaching; we do what we do on purpose, with good reason. Intentional teachers are thoughtful, reflective people who are conscious of the decisions they make and the actions they take; they live and teach by the principles and practices they value and believe in.”
  - Miller, 2008, pg. 4

You will think about what it means to teach with intention
What are some of your basic beliefs about teaching and learning?

Form groups of two, three, or four and come up with a list of at least three belief statements.

Be ready to share.
1. Classroom environments are most effective when they are literate and purposeful, organized and accessible, and most of all authentic.
2. We cannot underestimate the power of our influence—what we choose to say and do in the classroom profoundly affects the ways children view their teacher, themselves, and others.
3. Learning is maximized when the lessons I design are purposeful, interactive, and engaging, with real world applications.
4. The gradual release of responsibility instructional model, integrated into a workshop format, best guides children toward understanding and independence.

You will think about your beliefs as a teacher.
5. Formative, ongoing assessments enlightens and informs my day-to-day work with children.
6. A workshop format based on the elements of time, choice, response, and community fosters active, responsive teaching and learning.

You will think about your beliefs as a teacher.
What do YOU believe?

What would you now add to the list you created earlier?
RELATIONSHIPS
- Every student is loved by and created in the image of God and as such deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

ROUTINE
- Students deserve a planned, purposeful, and predictable classroom routine which will allow moments of brilliance to flourish.

RELEVANCE
- Students deserve REAL work which prepares them for life.

RIGOR
- Students deserve work that is sufficiently challenging.

ROOM
- Students deserve to feel comfortable and organized.

AND...
LEADER/LIFE LONG LEARNER

- Students deserve a PASSIONATE teacher who is a life-long learner, consistently trying to improve his/her craft through reading a variety of professional material.

- READING TEACHERS NEED TO LOVE TO READ!
- WRITING TEACHERS NEED TO LOVE TO WRITE!
So, how does your IDEAL classroom look, sound, and feel?

You will think about your beliefs as a teacher.
Taking Action

- Environment, Environment, Environment
- Creating Classroom Cultures That Support and Promote Student Thinking
- Swimming with the Sharks: Teaching for Understanding and Engagement
- Lesson Design: Creating Lessons Based on Principles and Practices You Believe In
- Assessment, Reflections, and Next Steps
- The Thoughtful Use of Time

You will think about what it means to teach with intention.
You will think about your beliefs as a teacher.
You will think about your beliefs as a teacher.
You may never know the impact you have in the life of a child.

YOU MATTER!

You will feel uplifted.