Acuity Test Experience

During my time spent in my seventh grade student teaching classroom, we would use the Acuity test to track our students' progress and see which students needed help in the subject of English. My students would test throughout the year in order to track their progress. I was involved with the class in their last testing session. My cooperating teacher and I used the information gathered from the tests to assess which students were struggling and still needed help.

When my teacher and I received the information, we noticed that while some of the struggling students' scores had gone up since the last test, many were still struggling in reading comprehension. These were the students in our Reading Lab period. In this period, we would work with these students on reading comprehension, phonetic skills and dictionary work. Towards the end of my time there, we really focused our attention on reading comprehension and how to "attack" words. We used a method from Tovani's book I Can Read it But I Don't Get it. In this book it discusses the different ways a student is often confused by a book. When we went over those ways with the class, we were shocked to find that many of our students listed almost all of the ways, such as getting confused halfway through a book and having to start over. I think it helped the students to place a name to the feelings they had about reading.

After Acuity testing and seeing the students who were struggling, we had some real successes in our Reading Lab. We worked on reading comprehension every day and the students seemed to be getting better at comprehension. Towards the end of my time they were even getting excited about the books they were reading, and I held a book talk so they could share their books with the rest of the class. By using the data from Acuity, we could really see who needed help and find ways to help these students.