

**STORIZA**

**A PLATFORM TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S ORAL  
READING FLUENCY DEVELOPMENT WITH  
GENERATIVE AI**

WALTER L. LEITE, STEPHANIE HAMMERSCHMIDT-SNIDARICH,

CORINNE HUGGINS-MANLEY, HATICE KUBRA KARAKIS,

HOLLY LANE, SEYEDAHMAD RAHIMI, QIAN SHEN, XINYI TAI

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

MATTHEW SCHMIDT

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**





## ***HELPING STUDENTS DEVELOP ORAL READING FLUENCY (ORF)***

ORF is the ability to read quickly, accurately, and with expression.

ORF is vital to reading proficiency and reading comprehension (Paige, 2020).

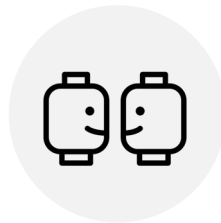
# EVIDENCE-BASED SUPPORTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ORF

## CRITICAL SUPPORTS

Readability

Provide **student choice**

Immediate **feedback**



## Reading App Features

Chunkable; Decodable; Ability to specify difficulty level

Specify & refine topics

Read aloud; Auto error detection;

## Welcome to Storiza!

Choose Story Specifications:

Logout

Grade: 1st Grade

Topic: Digraphs

Lesson: 42. ff, ll, ss, zz

Word Count: 75

Keywords/Topic: cars

Submit

## My Story from Storiza

Back to prompts Logout



Select Sentence Length: Full text

Story Prompt: race cars

Jack and Jill love to race. Their small race cars zip and zoom. Fast off the start, they miss no beat. Jill is on Jack's tail. "Buzz!" goes Jack's car, while Jill's engine huffs. They pass a tall tree and spin on slick grass. Jack zips past the line first. "Well done!" says Jill with a big smile. They both laugh and plan another race. Racing is a thrill!

**Story Specifications**

Length: 75

Grade Level: 1st Grade

Topic: race cars

Focus sound: ff, ll, ss, zz

Category: Digraphs

Start Recording

Action:

Select target  
lesson

Choose story topic

Create and  
illustrate story

Offer Supports

Read Story

Agent:

Teachers, tutors,  
parents

Student

Storiza

Student

# PARTICIPATORY DESIGN WITH EDUCATORS

**Hypotheses**

**8**

**30-MINUTE INTERVIEWS**

**85**

## INTERVIEWEES



Teachers **30**

SPED  
Teachers **9**



Tutors **6**

Coaches **6**



Specialists **12**

Parents **6**



Administrators **16**

# ANALYSES

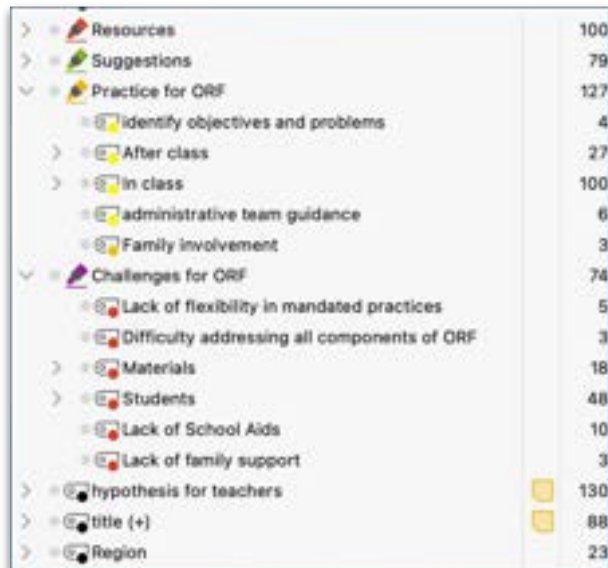
## THEMATIC ANALYSIS WITH MAXQDA

STEP 1. SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW NOTES IMPORTED INTO MAXQDA

STEP 2. CODED INTO CATEGORIES ALIGNED WITH HYPOTHESES

STEP 3. FREQUENCY & CO-OCCURRENCE ANALYSIS TO FIND THEME RELATIONSHIPS

STEP 4. REPRESENTATIVE QUOTES IDENTIFIED PER HYPOTHESIS



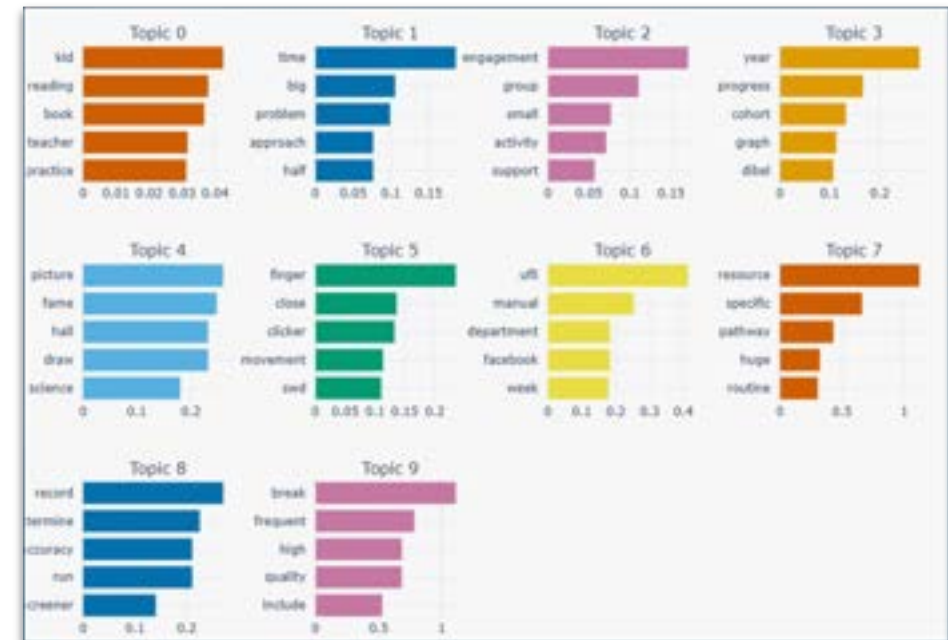
## TOPIC MODELING WITH BERTOPIC

STEP 1. SPLIT INTERVIEW TEXTS INTO INDIVIDUAL SENTENCES

STEP 2. USE MINILM-L6-V2 MODEL TO GENERATE SENTENCE EMBEDDINGS

STEP 3. APPLY BERTOPIC TO CLUSTER SENTENCES INTO TOPICS

STEP 4. INTERPRET TOPICS AND ALIGN THEM WITH THE PREDEFINED HYPOTHESES



# RESULTS: SUPPORT FOR HYPOTHESES

Hypotheses	% support	Example quote
1. Teachers have trouble engaging students in oral reading fluency practice, particularly those with a disability (e.g., dyslexia, ADHD, autism spectrum);	40%	"For kids in special education, there is not enough support. For dyslexic kids, I use explicit instruction, sound wall and sound articulations."
2. Students will be more engaged in reading materials they helped create;	41.17%	"If the kids come up with the topic/story it could help to keep them engaged."
3. Teachers welcome the use of technology to improve oral reading fluency practice;	63.52%	"A reading app would help with engagement and providing decodable stories."
4. Teachers will actively search for resources to help with oral reading fluency practice;	56.47%	"I reach out to literacy department in district, to classroom teachers, to other reading specialists to help in finding resources- others reach out to me similarly."

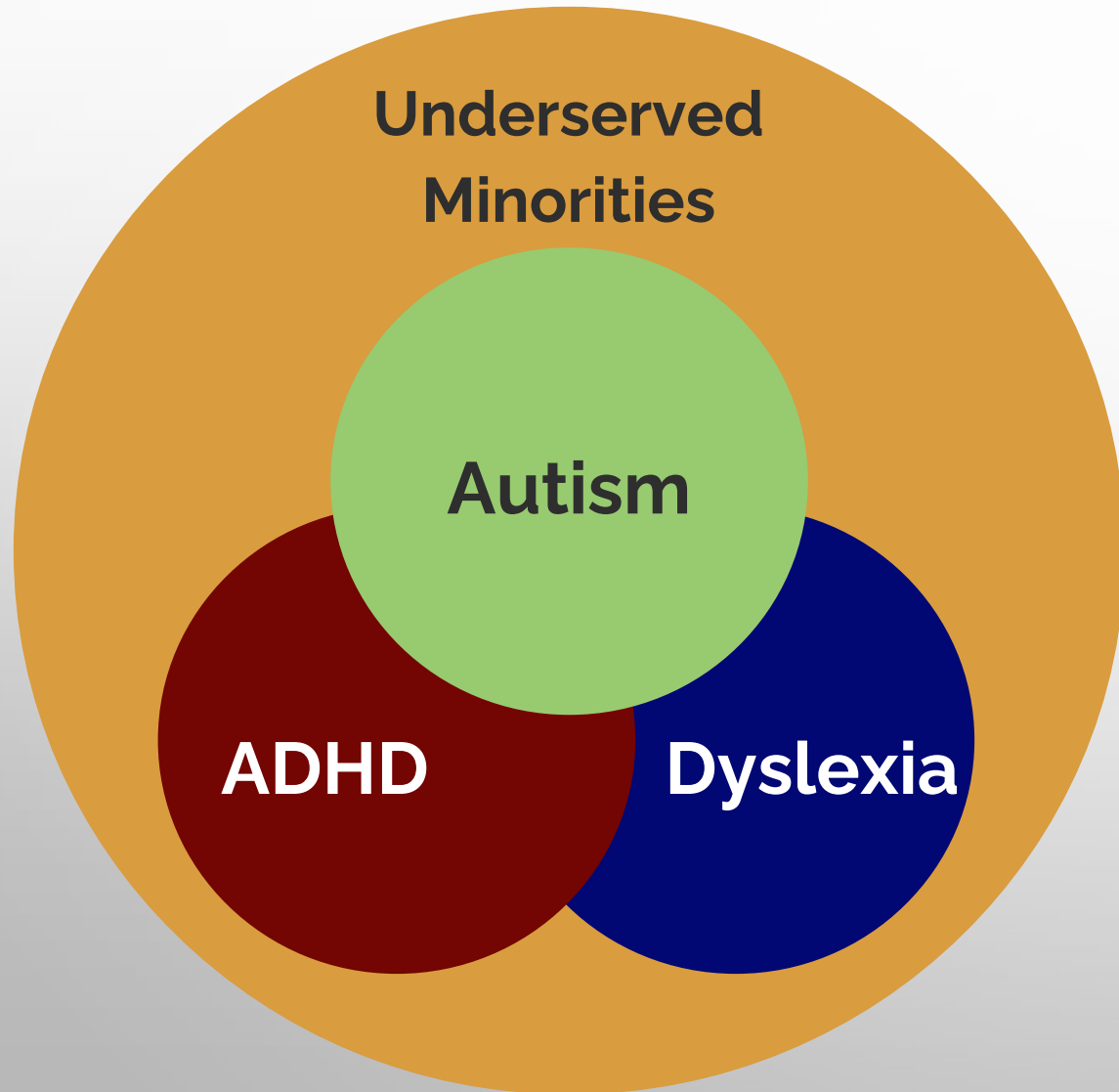


# RESULTS: SUPPORT FOR HYPOTHESES

Hypotheses	% support	Example quote
5. Teachers struggle to find a variety of reading materials at the appropriate reading level for students;	41.17%	"...That would be great!! We also have reading a - z and they are supposed to be at their level, but not all the books are really at their level."
6. Teachers would use an AI reading app to create stories with the whole class using the projector;	38.82%	"Projecting the app would be very nice because would build up oral discourse as well."
7. Teachers would use an AI reading app to create stories for small-group instruction;	37.64%	"I could do a lot of group and whole class instruction work. Like introducing a new concept!"
8. Teachers would assign using an AI reading app to create stories as homework.	21.17%	"It would be a great thing for them to make a story in class and read it at home or make a story at home and come to school and read it in class."



# HOW STORIZA CAN SUPPORT UNDERSERVED LEARNERS



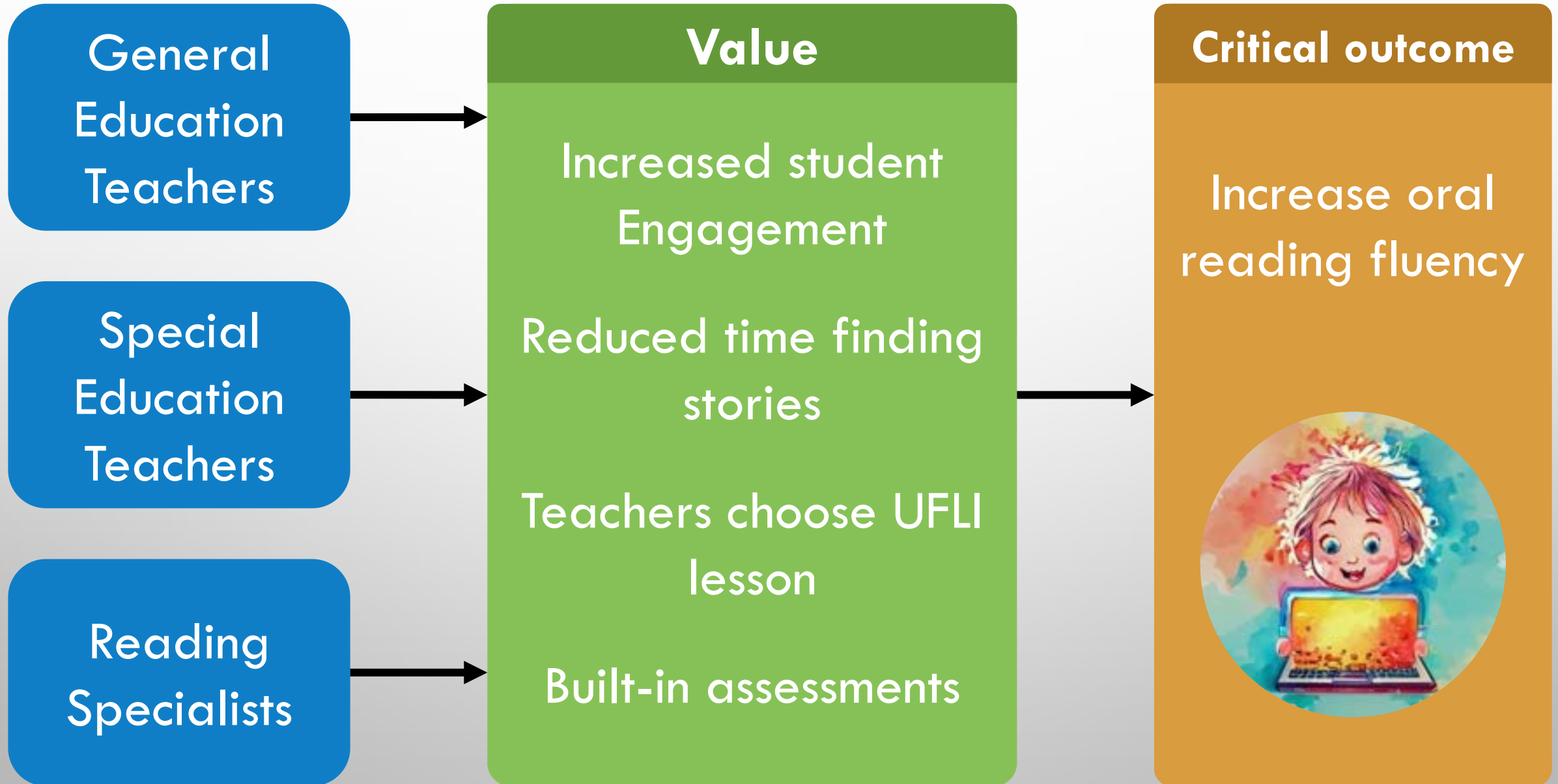
**ADHD:** STORY CHOICE SUPPORTS CREATIVITY, AND READING ALOUD IMPROVES FLUENCY.

**DYSLEXIA:** CHUNKING DECREASES DIFFICULTY, HIGHLIGHTING IMPROVES FLUENCY.

**AUTISM:** INCORPORATING SPECIFIC STORY CHARACTERS INCREASES ENGAGEMENT, CREATIVITY, AND VOCABULARY.

**UNDERSERVED MINORITIES:** STORY CHOICE AND INTEGRATING CULTURAL ELEMENTS INCREASES ENGAGEMENT AND CREATIVITY.

# Value to Teachers



# FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Stealth assessment

Gamification

Intelligent tutoring system



<https://virtuallearninglab.org/research/storiza/>