

Everything I Know about Study Groups

I Learned from Dr. Seuss, Pete the Cat,  
Dick and Jane, and Oprah (with assistance  
from a few others).

A Dozen Principles to Guide your work with Study  
Groups

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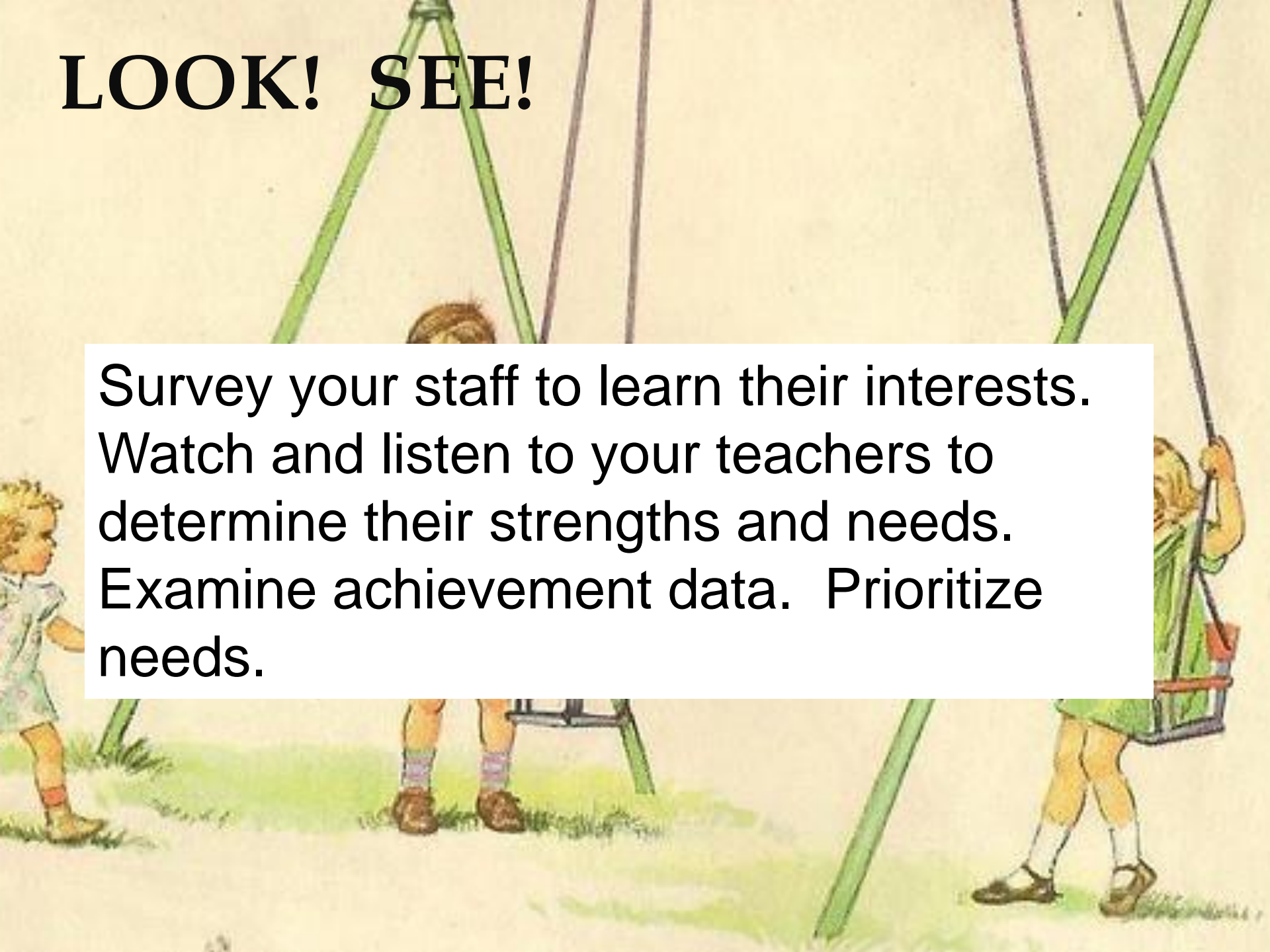




# The Dick and Jane Principle

# LOOK! SEE!

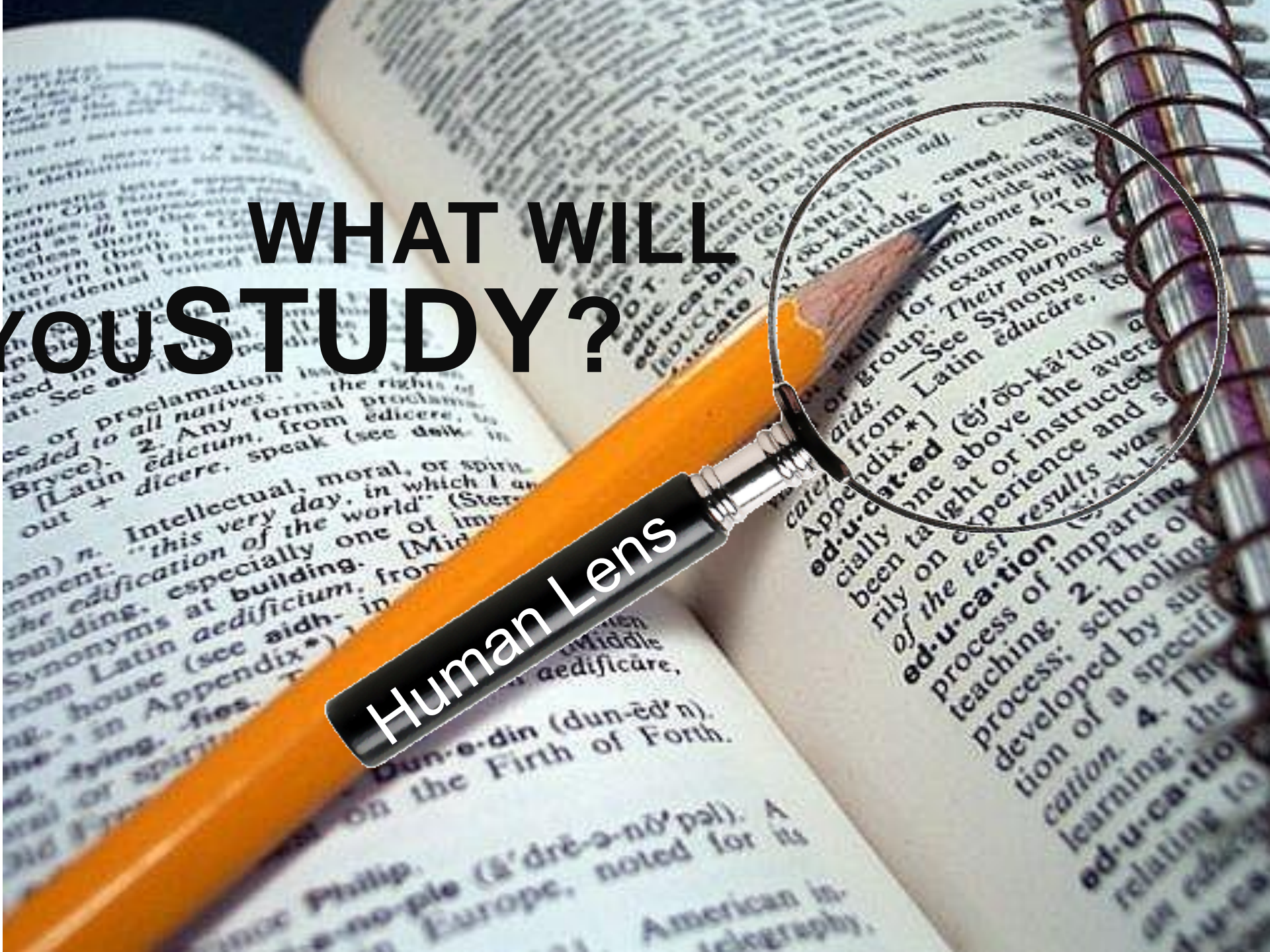
Survey your staff to learn their interests. Watch and listen to your teachers to determine their strengths and needs. Examine achievement data. Prioritize needs.





# WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Human Lens



The background of the slide features a collage of the five members of the Spice Girls. On the left, a woman with long red hair (Melanie C) is smiling. Next to her is a woman with dark hair (Melanie B) also smiling. In the center, a woman with blonde hair (Geri Halliwell) is visible. To her right is another woman with blonde hair (Emma Bunton) smiling. On the far right, a woman with dark hair (Victoria Beckham) is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

# THE SPICE GIRLS PRINCIPLE

Beware of fads. Stay grounded in the research and carefully evaluate new trends.

Not everything out there is research based.



# The Tortoise and the Hare Principle



It Is important to start small and allow the group to build over time. Remember, slow and steady wins the race!





# The Sistine Chapel Principle

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly angled view of the Sistine Chapel ceiling. It shows the intricate details of Michelangelo's 'The Creation of Adam' fresco, with the reclining position of Adam on the left and the figures of God and the Holy Spirit on the right. The texture of the original plaster is visible, including some cracks.

Both masterpieces and study groups take time to develop. Be consistent. Meet monthly. Adhere to an established schedule. It builds trust and habit.

A close-up, high-resolution photograph of a person's face, focusing on the eyes and forehead. The person's eyes are closed, and their expression is serene. The skin is a warm, light brown tone. Dark, wavy hair is visible around the edges of the face. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the texture of the skin and hair.

# The Oprah Principle

Relationships are the soul. Just like with kids, rapport is essential when working with adults. It is not until a relationship is established that a teacher will be willing to take risks. Also, groups should never last more than an hour!!



# The Martha Stewart Principle

A photograph of Martha Stewart in a kitchen setting. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background, there are shelves with various kitchen items like jars and a white pitcher. In the foreground, there are kitchen appliances including a blender with yellow contents and a food processor with white contents.

Sometimes staff development is like throwing a party. Simple courtesies make the teachers feel special and acknowledged.

A cartoon illustration of Goldilocks with blonde hair, wearing a blue dress with white polka dots, sitting at a wooden table and holding a white bowl. The background shows a wooden chair and a window with a view of a landscape.

# The Goldilocks, “Just Right” Principle

Smaller groups tend to work best. Try to keep group size to less than 10. ILA recommends groups of 10-15. Learning Forward recommends no more than 6 members.



# The Pete the Cat Principle

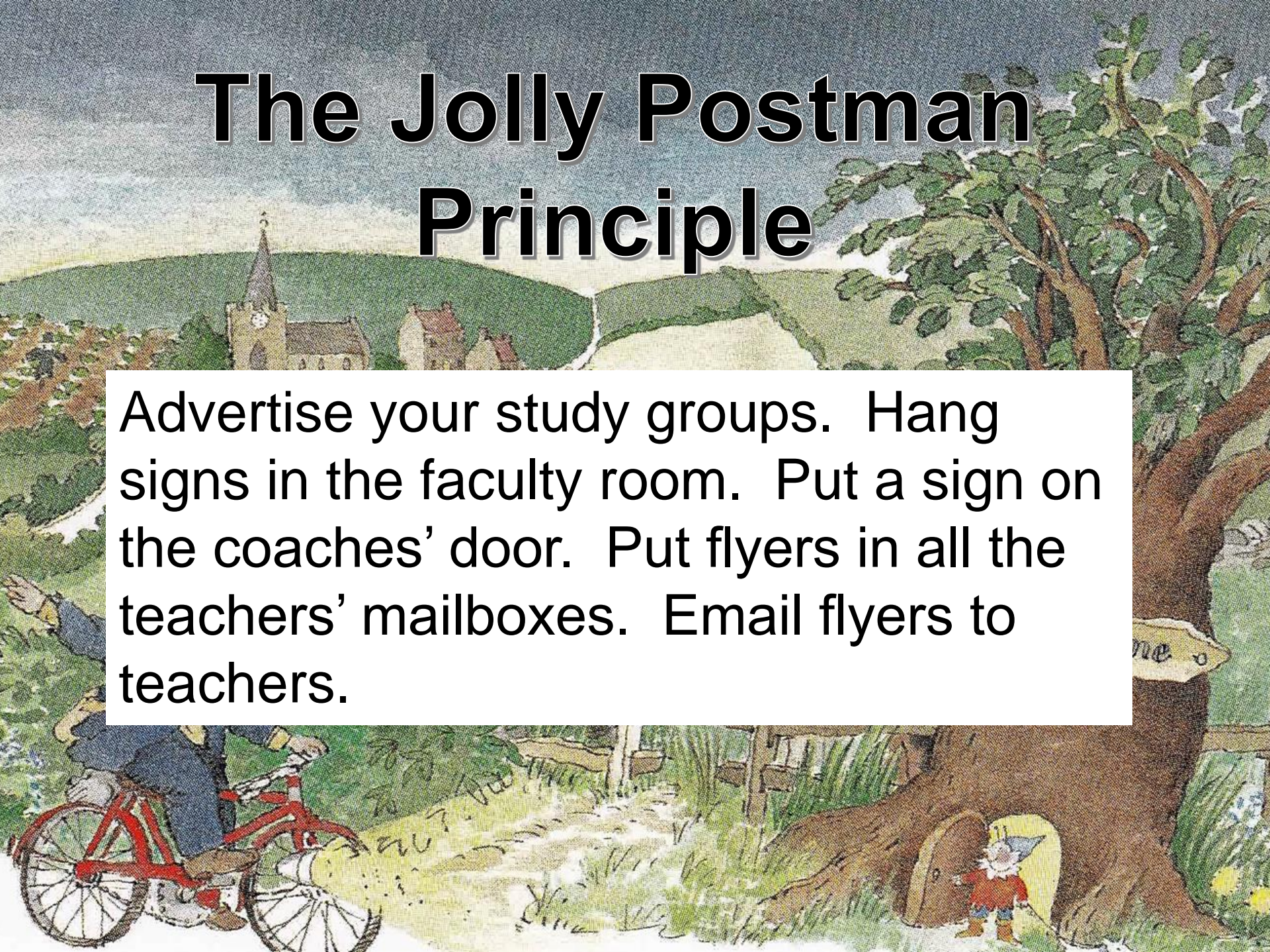
It's all good! Keep it relaxed. Meet in a relaxed environment. If you meet at school, try for a lounge or the coaching office—somewhere teachers feel safe and comfortable. You should establish both time and place in collaboration with the group.





# The Jolly Postman Principle

Advertise your study groups. Hang signs in the faculty room. Put a sign on the coaches' door. Put flyers in all the teachers' mailboxes. Email flyers to teachers.







# The Tomie dePaola Principle

Stamp your heart on every page of your work. Stay passionate about your work and your passion will become contagious. If you are not passionate about the study topic, don't lead the study—delegate



# The Monet Principle

Observe the interplay of reality and reflection. Include a reflection piece in every study group session. Reflective teachers are effective teachers.





# The Cat in the Hat Principle



Have fun! How else will teachers and coaches have energy for such hard work?

