

PowerPoint Handouts




Making Inferences and Predictions

Grades 6 – 12



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TEXAS LITERACY INITIATIVE

Making Inferences and Predictions

Grades 6 – 12




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“ Inferring is the bedrock of comprehension, not only in reading. We infer in many realms. Our life clicks along more smoothly if we can read the world as well as text. Inferring is about reading faces, reading body language, reading expressions, and reading tone as well as reading text.”



(Harvey & Goudvis, 2000, p. 105)





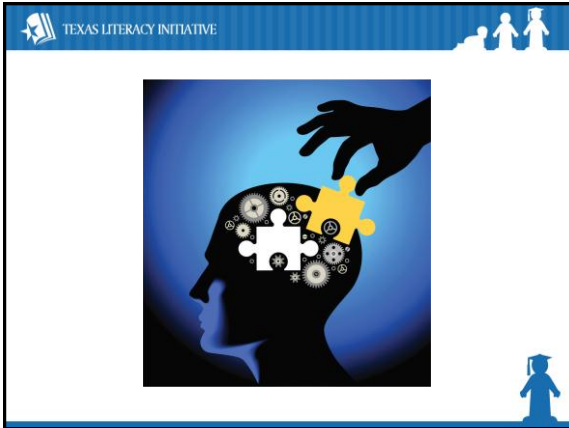


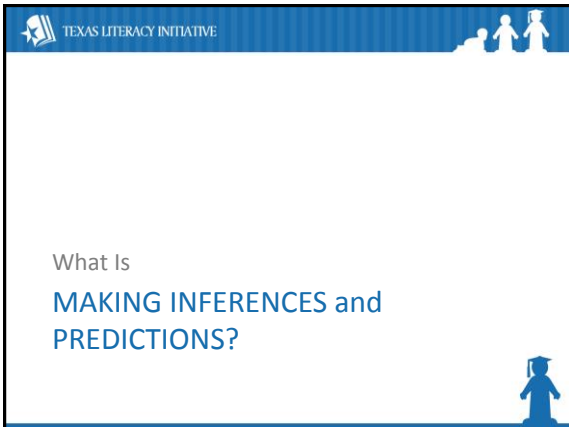
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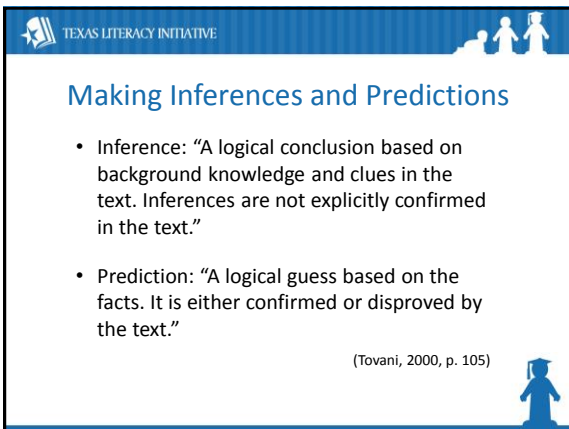
Goals for This Training

- Clarify what Making Inferences and Predictions includes.
- Recognize the importance of teaching Making Inferences and Predictions.
- Practice a routine for planning and teaching Making Inferences and Predictions.
- Understand how to teach Making Inferences and Predictions across disciplines.










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Making Inferences and Predictions

- Assumption: "A fact or statement taken for granted. Assumptions may or may not be based on facts or information and may or may not be correct."
- Opinion: "A belief or conclusion that isn't necessarily based on facts or information. It can be informed or ridiculous, because it is based on what one thinks instead of what is proven by facts to be true."

(Tovani, 2000, p. 105)

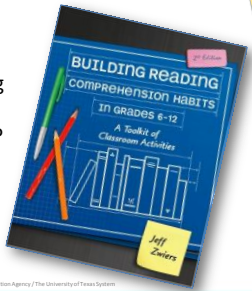


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Building Reading Comprehension Habits in Grades 6-12

Handout 1

CPQ: What do you learn about inferring and predicting from reading the excerpt?



Jeff Zentgraf




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Making Inferences

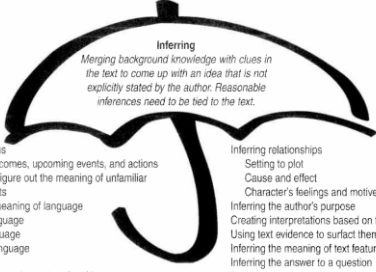
Inferring includes:

- Determining meanings of unknown words.
- Making predictions.
- Answering our questions when the answers are not in the text.
- Creating interpretations and synthesizing information.

(Miller, 2002)



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Inferring
Merging background knowledge with clues in the text to come up with an idea that is not explicitly stated by the author. Reasonable inferences need to be tied to the text.

Making predictions
Predicting outcomes, upcoming events, and actions
Using context to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words/concepts

Interpreting the meaning of language
Figurative language
Idiomatic language
Metaphoric language
Visualizing
Constructing meaning with a visual image
Inferring creates a picture, movie, or slideshow in the mind


Inferring relationships
Setting to plot
Cause and effect
Character's feelings and motives
Inferring the author's purpose
Creating interpretations based on text evidence
Using text evidence to surfact themes and big ideas
Inferring the meaning of text features and visuals
Inferring the answer to a question
Drawing conclusions based on text evidence

Handout 2

Figure 9.2 The Inferring Umbrella (Harvey & Goudvis, 2007, p. 132)

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Why Should We Teach MAKING INFERENCES and PREDICTIONS?




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Why Should We Teach Making Inferences?


"I can diagram a sentence to death. I know the meaning of every literary term there is, but I don't understand how that's supposed to help me. I wish teachers would spend more time showing us how to understand hard books. Instead, they assign chapters for us to read along with a bunch of questions, and then they send us on an endless search for when literary devices are used. That makes me hate the book.

My friends don't even read the book. They use SparkNotes to answer the questions. In a way, they're learning how to cheat, they're not learning how to understand hard books."

~ Emily, 8th grade Pre-AP



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Why Should We Teach Making Inferences and Predictions?

English Language Arts: Reading


Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about...

- Theme and genre in different cultural and contemporary contexts.
- The structure and elements of poetry, drama, and fiction.
- The varied structural patterns and features of literary nonfiction.
- How an author's sensory language creates imagery in literary texts.
- The author's purpose in cultural, historical, and contemporary contexts.
- Expository text, persuasive text.

...and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding/analysis.




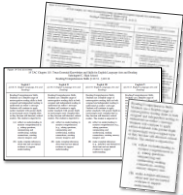
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Why Should We Teach Making Inferences and Predictions?

Fig. 19
Reading/Comprehension Skills

Students are expected to...
make complex inferences about text and use textual evidence to support understanding.




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Why Should We Teach Making Inferences and Predictions?

- **Environmental Systems** (c)(2)(I)... make inferences and predict trends from data;
- **Integrated Physics and Chemistry** (c)(3)(C) draw inferences based on data related to promotional materials for products and services;
- **Social Studies, Grades 6&7** (b)(21)(B) analyze information by... predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions;
- **Algebra I** (b)(1)(E) interpret and make decisions, predictions, and critical judgments from functional relationships.
- **Algebra I** (b)(2)(C) interpret situations in terms of given graphs...




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Why Should We Teach Making Inferences and Predictions?

ELPS Reading 4(J) demonstrate English comprehension and expand reading skills by employing inferential skills such as predicting, making connections between ideas, drawing inferences and conclusions from text and graphic sources, and finding supporting text evidence commensurate with content area needs;



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Why Should We Teach Making Inferences and Predictions?


Think about your data.

- What does your data indicate regarding our students' ability to make inferences and predictions?



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How Should We Teach MAKING INFERENCES and PREDICTIONS?




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Dear George,

I gave you after-school detention one day for mouthing off to me. I thought I had done such a good job of setting up the premise for the story we read—a great mountain-climbing adventure called “Top Man”—and then had read most of it aloud to the class. You, along with everyone else, were supposed to read the rest of it on your own and then, that night for homework, answer one question: Who was the top man? The next day, when I asked who you thought the top man was, you just shrugged. I asked what the shrug meant. “I don’t know,” you replied. “You don’t know the answer to the question or you don’t know why you shrugged?” I pressed. “The question. It didn’t say who was the top man.” “You’re supposed to make an inference, George, you know, inferring. That’s how you answer the question. Make an inference.” You stared at me for a moment, then said, “No, I guess I don’t know. Don’t you think if I did know, I’d just do it and get you off my back? Jezz.”

Obviously, George, twenty-three years ago, it took much less for me to send a kid to detention. Honestly, though, I think I gave you detention because your answer was just too honest. I backed you into a corner and then punished you when you defended yourself. If I was so good at making inferences, I wonder why it took me so long to figure that one out!


(Beers, 2003, p. 61)




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The Teacher Is Key

“Children’s difficulties on inference-related items often correlate to teachers’ lack of clarity about what good inference instruction looks like... if we’re not sure how to describe inference, our instruction tends to be less explicit, less frequent, and less than memorable.”



(Keene & Zimmermann, 2007, p. 148)



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Cognitive Strategy Routine

Cognitive Strategy Lesson Planning	
Title of Text:	Author/Source:
What is a real-world situation?	Why are we going to learn a strategy called _____?
How do the strategy and text connect?	Strategy definition:
Define the strategy, how and when it is used, and how to begin with modeling.	How it helps us comprehend:
Step 4 Give students independent practice.	Model how to pose, explain strategy problem, and refer to anchor notes.

Strategy Instruction


DIRECT • EXPLICIT • SYSTEMATIC

1. State a meaningful question to create a context (direct instruction).
2. Give the strategy a name.
3. Define the strategy, how and when it is used, and how to begin with modeling.
4. Give students opportunities to use the strategy on text to help them understand the strategy.
5. Have students use the strategy in a variety of contexts.
6. Engage students by providing opportunities for them to share their strategy using peer modeling and/or group application with continued discussion prompts.
7. Scaffold practice, providing opportunities for students to use the strategy with modeling, modeling, and independent practice.
8. Provide access to formative, summative, and diagnostic assessment using the strategy.

Ongoing Assessment

Ongoing assessment may include informal assessments such as exit tickets, observation of student discussion, and other strategies of formative assessment. Informal assessment may also be used for formative assessment.



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Use a Real-World Example (Step 1)

- An anchor lesson is a real-world example used to create context for a cognitive strategy.
- We refer to the anchor lesson to remind students of the cognitive strategy.



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Anchor Lesson for Making Inferences & Predictions






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Use a Real-World Example (Step 1)

“Remember when we looked through the purse and used the clues in the purse and our background knowledge to figure out who owned the purse?”

Record what you will say for Step 1 on your orange Cognitive Strategy Routine Lesson Planning Card.




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Strategy Instruction

DIRECT • EXPLICIT • SYSTEMATIC

Responsibility	1. Use a real-world example to create a context (anchor lesson).	Ongoing Asses
	2. Give the strategy a name.	
	3. Define the strategy, how and when it is used, and how it helps with reading.	
	4. Give students touchstones, such as a hand gesture or icon, to help them remember the strategy.	





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Give the Strategy a Name (Step 2)

“Today, we’re going to talk about a strategy called Making Inferences and Predictions.”


Record what you will say for Step 2 on your orange Cognitive Strategy Routine Lesson Planning Card.



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Define the Strategy (Step 3)


“An inference is when we combine our background knowledge along with information in the text to understand what the author is not telling us directly. An inference about future information is a prediction. When we make inferences, it helps us understand text more fully.”



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“Inferences are really important and great readers make them all the time. An inference is something a reader knows from reading, but the author doesn’t include it in the book. It helps you understand the story more deeply and helps make books mean something very personal to you.”



(Keene & Zimmermann, 2007, p. 148)




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Define the Strategy (Step 3)

Record what you will say for Step 3 on your orange Cognitive Strategy Routine Lesson Planning Card.




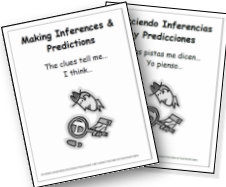
An inference is...




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Give Students Touchstones (Step 4)

You may choose to provide students with a hand motion that signals “Making Inferences and Predictions.”



Display strategy posters in the classroom.




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Give Students Touchstones (Step 4)

Touchstones: Explain the strategy poster and refer to the anchor lesson.


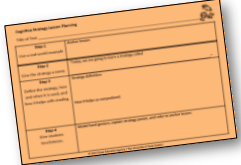
“When I make an inference, I will show you by pointing to the poster. Look at the detective on our poster. He is searching for clues in the text and using his background knowledge to make an inference. We made inferences when we tried to figure out to whom the purple purse belonged.”



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Give Students Touchstones (Step 4)

Record what you will say for Step 4 on your orange Cognitive Strategy Routine Lesson Planning Card.




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Think-Aloud (Step 5)

“A think-aloud is a way to provide *instruction* rather than just give *instructions*” (Daniels & Zemelman, 2004, p. 238).

Students who struggle with reading “in general do not possess knowledge of strategies and often are not aware of when and how to apply the knowledge they do possess” (Duffy et al., 1987, p. 348).




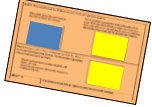
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Cognitive Strategy Lesson Planning Card (Side 2)

Step 5 is where we SHOW students how we use the strategy while reading.




We plan a Comprehension Purpose Question (CPQ), as well as places to model thinking-aloud for students.

Step 5 will differ with each lesson. We transfer the sticky notes from the planning card and place them on the text.



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Think-Aloud (Step 5)




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Making Inferences Graphic Organizer

Graphic organizers can help struggling students to focus “attention on the text while they read or help them organize the incoming information contained in the text” (Almasi, 2003, p. 92).

This type of activity helps students to actively think about the text while they are reading. This particular organizer helps students to “explore a text by using text-explicit and text-implicit thinking processes... It is a child-centered strategy that allows the teacher to guide children both to the ideas in the text and to the processes involved in getting those ideas” (Searfoss & Readence, 1994, pp. 246-248).



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Think-Aloud (Step 5)

Handout 3

Use scaffolds to support student learning.

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CPQ: What do we learn about the woman coming into town?

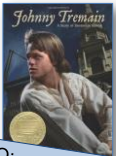
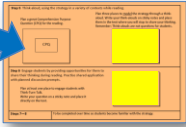
Making Inferences Graphic Organizer Title: Their Eyes Were Watching God – pp. 1-3
CPQ: What do we learn about the woman coming into town?

P. #	My Answers to the CPQ	Direct (Explicit) or Inference (Implicit)?	Evidence (Text Clues)	Background Knowledge (Connections to What I Know)
1	She was coming back from burying the dead - someone who died suddenly.	direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She had come back from burying the dead... the sudden dead. 	
2	The town people used to be envious of her, but now they enjoyed seeing her fall on hard times.	Inference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remember the envy they had stored. swelled and wide smile. Burning statements... laughs. The mood comes alive. Coming back in alive, overhalls? Where's that blue gown dress? 	They are remembering the envy, so it was in the past when you wish something and the mood comes alive, it means you enjoy it. When people's statements burn and they laugh at you, they are being mean. She's dressed like she is poor.
2	She's 40 years old.	direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What did old forty year old 'owen die'... 	
2	Her hair is long and she's wearing it down, which isn't appropriate for an older woman.	Inference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What did old forty year old 'owen die'... what did her hair end up down her back like some young girl? 	Most women in their 40s don't wear their hair down. (which means long) like young girls. The fact they are asking what he thinks she's doing wearing her hair like that, tells me they think it's not appropriate.

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Your Turn! (Step 5)

- Read the excerpt from *Johnny Tremain*.
- Use the Cognitive Strategy Routine Lesson Planning Card to plan a CPQ for this text.

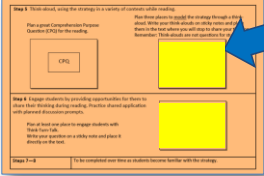
CPQ:
What do the other characters think about Johnny?

Text Excerpt

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Your Turn! (Step 5)


- Use the Think-Aloud sticky notes to record the first three statements you will stop to think-aloud for students.



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Your Turn! (Step 5)

- Place your 3 sticky notes on Handout 6 (blank graphic organizer).
- To ensure that your lesson is clear and explicit, plan what you will say to students. Record the text evidence and/or background knowledge you relied on to make the statement.



Handout 6

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Practice Your Think-Aloud Lesson


- Place your sticky notes back in the text where you will stop and think-aloud for students. Now read the excerpt.
 - Stop and share aloud the statement on the sticky note.
 - Place the sticky note on a blank organizer as you would when modeling for students.
 - Share out loud and record the appropriate information on the graphic organizer (refer to the organizer you created when planning as a guide).
 - Tell students whether your statement is directly stated in the text or if you made an inference.
- Continue reading until you reach your next stop.
- Repeat a-d.


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Cognitive Strategy Routine

How might you use this graphic organizer to help students understand when they are Making Inferences and Predictions?

 Think

 Turn

 Talk

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Step 6

Strategy Instruction

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Release of Responsibility

- Use a real-world example to create a context (anchor lesson).
- Give the strategy a name.
- Define the strategy, how and when it is used, and how it helps with reading.
- Give students touchstones, such as a hand gesture or icon, to help them remember the strategy.
- Think aloud, using the strategy in a variety of contexts.
- Engage students by providing opportunities for them to share their thinking during the reading. Practice shared application with planned discussion prompts.

Ongoing Assessment and Instruction

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Engage Students (Step 6)

Handout 3

Ask students to share their thinking. Add statements to the graphic organizer and ask them to identify whether or not the statement is directly stated in the text or if they have to make an inference.

Is this true? Did the author tell us this directly or are we making an inference?



2	She left the town to marry a poor, younger man, but that didn't work out.	Inference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where she left at young and of a boy she went off here with? Thought she was going to marry? What he done with all her money? Why she don't stay in her class? 	It says she left with a younger man and she thought she was going to marry him. Now she is alone and it seems like her money is gone. Class is like lower and middle class. She didn't stay in her class, which tells me he was poor compared to her.
2	She was higher class compared to the rest of the townspeople.	Inference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remember the money they had stowed. Where's their blue silk dress? Where all that money... Why she don't stay in her class? 	People are jealous of others when they have less than them. It sounds like she had money and used to dress nice. Since they talk about her staying in her class, it means me that she's in a different class than all of them as well.
STEP 6 2	The man found her appealing (maybe she's very attractive).			
3	The woman in the town don't think much of her.			
3	Phoebe Watson is her best friend.			

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Engage Students (Step 6)

"Discussion plays a key role in supporting the development of students' understanding of text. It is through the interaction – or the transaction – of ideas, language, and perspective that comprehension is developed" (Israel & Duffy, 2009, p. 523).





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Engage Students (Step 6)

Ask Think-Turn-Talk questions that require students to make inferences or predictions.

- "How did Janie feel about her discovery and why did she feel that way?"
- "Why is Nanny pushing so hard for Janie to get married?"
- "What are you inferring now?"
- "What do you know now that you didn't know before?"
- "What do you think might happen?"




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Creating a Safe Environment

"If we encourage and celebrate changes in thinking, rather than 'correct' responses, reading improves ... We want to encourage our students to go back into the text to validate their thinking. We want ... them to know that they can review the text and change their thinking" (Sibberson and Szymusiak, 2003, p. 124).

"Constant penalties for being wrong, as well as an overemphasis on correctness, grades, and being right, undermine the climate of safety that ... readers need to take risks and grow" (Zemelman, Daniels, & Hyde, 2012, p. 107).




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Scaffold Practice (Step 7)


"Today, we are going to read a well-known poem called, *Invictus*. As you work to understand the poem, record the inferences you are making on sticky notes. You will share your inferences with your group. Be prepared to explain why you think what you do."




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Provide Accountability Measures (Step 8)



“After reading the excerpt today, I would like you to write your response to the CPQ. In your writing, explain what you learned about the character and her motivations. Be sure to provide text evidence and background knowledge to support your thinking.”




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Provide Accountability Measures (Step 8)

“Students' comprehension of science, social studies, and language arts texts is improved when they write about what they read, specifically when they respond to a text in writing (writing personal reactions, analyzing and interpreting the text)...”




(Graham & Hebert, 2010, p. 5)




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Cognitive Strategy Routine

How might using the Cognitive Strategy Routine as an approach to teaching Making Inferences and Predictions support the students with whom you work?

-  Think
-  Turn
-  Talk


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Teaching Making Inferences and Predictions
FADING THE SCAFFOLD

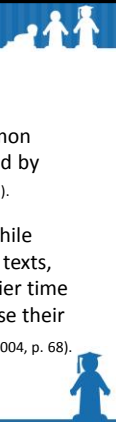
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Annotating the Text

- “Annotating text is one of the most common comprehension-enhancing strategies used by proficient readers (Daniels & Steineke, 2011, p. 41).
- “When students capture their thinking while reading, they are more likely to return to texts, participate in discussion and have an easier time starting writing assignments. They also use their marked text to review and study” (Tovani, 2004, p. 68).

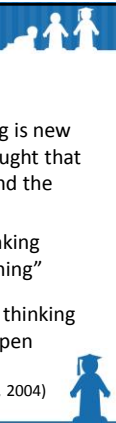


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Annotating the Text

- “The concept of holding and making thinking is new to a lot of students because they’ve been taught that it’s the teacher’s job to ask the questions, and the student’s job to answer them” (p. 68).
- “Merely underlining text is not enough. Thinking about the text must accompany the underlining” (p.69).
- “I have to teach students how to show their thinking again and again. It doesn’t miraculously happen because I’ve assigned it” (p. 69).


(Tovani, 2004)



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Annotating the Text

- Select small, complex pieces of text to model annotating text for students.
- Project the text so it is large enough for all students to see.
- Set the CPQ for the reading.
- Read the text aloud, stopping to underline the key information and place sticky notes explaining your thinking in the margin of the text.
- Clearly explain why you underlined what you did and what you are thinking.



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Annotating the Text

Text Excerpt


The Gettysburg Address, 1863
Abraham Lincoln

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that "all men are created equal."

87 years ago (1776 when Declaration of Independence was signed) beginning of our nation.

CPQ: What is Lincoln saying in this speech?

The country was founded on the idea that all men are created equally. At the time of this speech, Lincoln was looking to abolish slavery.




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Consecrate: To dedicate, honor.
Hallow: To honor as holy. Dedicate, consecrate, and hallow all have similar meanings. So, he's stressing the importance of this idea.

He's come to dedicate a portion of the battlefield as a memorial to those who have died in the war.

Now, he's wondering if our nation will survive because of the war.

whether that nation can long endure. We are met to dedicate a portion of this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. It isn't necessary to have a battleground an honored place, because the brave who have died have already made it an honored place.



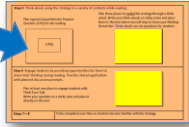
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Your Turn!

Text Excerpt

- Read the excerpt from *The Story of An Hour*.
- Use the Cognitive Strategy Routine Lesson Planning Card to plan a CPQ for this text.

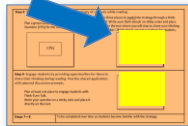
CPQ: What are the various phases of emotion the woman goes through after she hears the news?



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Your Turn!

- As you read, underline the most important information (evidence in the text). On sticky notes, record your thinking. Be aware of the inferences you are making to help you answer the CPQ.
- Think about how you would explain to students **WHY** you are annotating the text the way you are.



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Annotating the Text

- After we model multiple times for students, we can annotate text together (Step 6).
- Gradually, we release responsibly so students are able to successfully annotate complex chunks of texts independently (Step 8), increasing their ability to make inferences and predictions while reading.

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TEXAS LITERACY INITIATIVE

Teaching Making Inferences

- Graphic Organizers – highly supportive.
- Annotating Text – less supportive.

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TEXAS LITERACY INITIATIVE

Reflecting On the Training

- How might you implement the approaches for teaching Making Inferences and Predictions in your classroom?
- How might this type of instruction help your students?

Think

Turn

Talk

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TEXAS LITERACY INITIATIVE

Dear George,

On the last day of class, you handed me a note. "Read it later," you said, then headed off for summer vacation. You had barely walked out our classroom door before I had unfolded your note. There, in your familiar pencil-smudged scrawl, you had written: "Sometimes what we show on the outside doesn't really match what's going on on the inside. Thank you for being my teacher."

My inferencing skills weren't too good, as I was never quite sure if the "we" meant students, in particular you, or the "we" meant teachers, in particular me. In either case, your words meant more than I ever had the chance to tell you. By the time I got into the hall, you were gone. I dreamed you a summer of basketball, skateboards, and fishing . . . I have hoped you a life of success.

(Beers, 2003, p. 72)

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