

Reading Process

Prereading (Setting the Purpose) – During the prereading stage questions are asked, and predictions are made in order to set the purpose for reading and to activate prior knowledge. A variety of strategies enable readers to activate this critical reading process (KWL, Anticipation Guide, Preread Prep, questioning, etc.). By taking students through the process, teachers are modeling what good readers do before attempting an unfamiliar piece. Prereading gets students “thinking about” ways the text might connect: text to self, text to text, and text to world.

During Reading (Accessing) – While students read, they should be constantly questioning, justifying and predicting. An excellent strategy for teachers to use is the Think Aloud, which again shows students what good readers do when reading. Once this process is modeled numerous times in a large group, students begin practicing this process themselves. Teachers can have students use sticky notes to mark places where they really get it, places they do not understand, and places where they have “burning questions.” It is through this processing and reprocessing of text that students become critical readers.

Post reading (Justifying) – After the reading students confirm their predictions, questions, thoughts and “ah ha’s” by discussing, by writing, and by retelling. They justify predictions by reentering the text. They validate connections by thinking about what it meant to them and what it meant to the writer. Also, through reading and processing a variety of texts and author styles, students begin to better develop their writer styles. Post reading activities allow students to reflect and connect, which often leads once again to prereading as students begin yet another connected text.

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**Think Aloud** – In literacy instruction, this is a metacognitive technique or strategy in which the teacher verbalizes aloud while reading a selection orally, thus modeling the process of comprehension (vocabulary, connections, questions, etc.). An extension of the think aloud is the recording of the spoken thoughts, thereby providing insight into the thinking processes involved in writing.