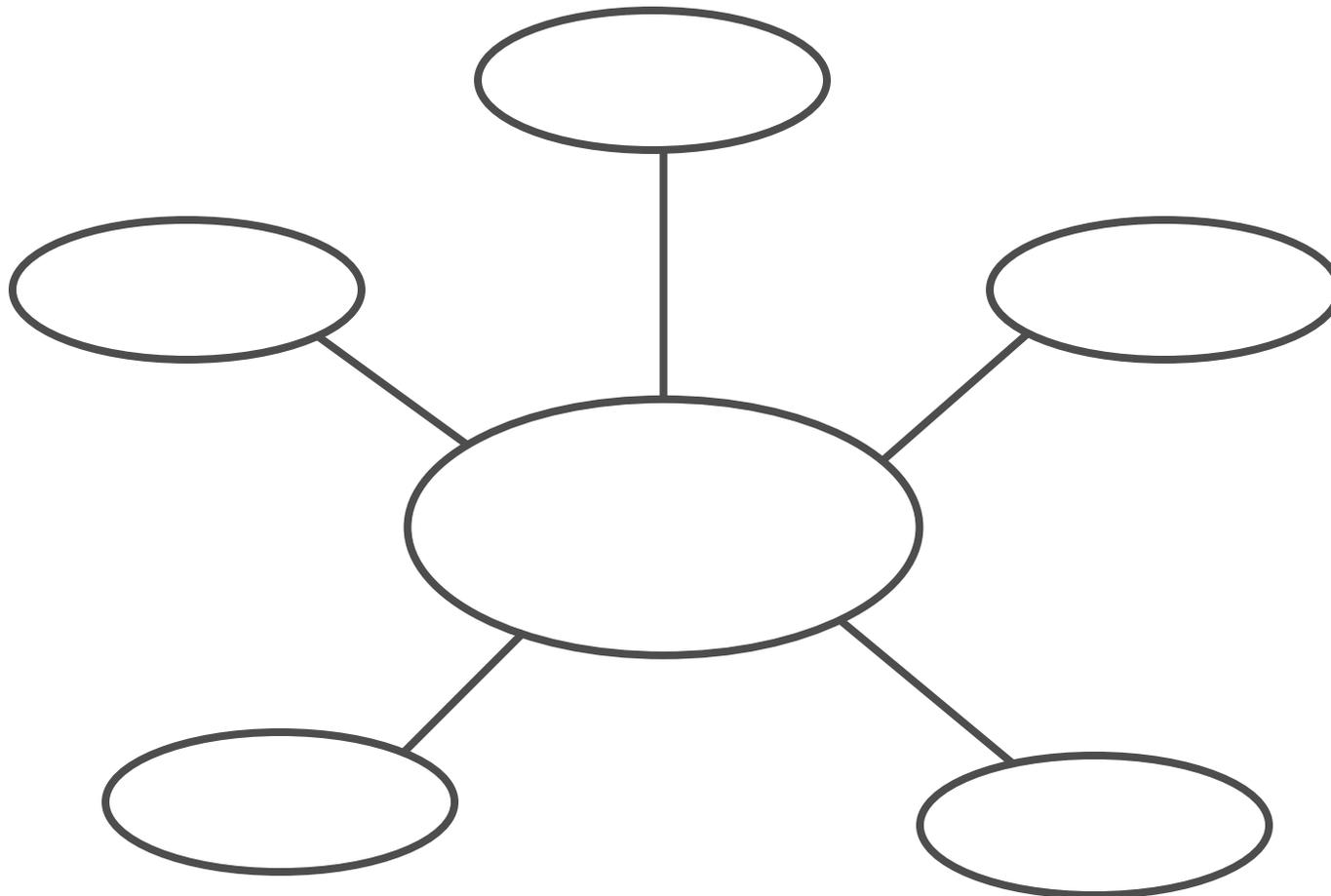




Concept Map

Use this map to organize your thoughts and make connections to your topic. Write the main idea in the center, and add supporting ideas or related topics in each surrounding oval. Continue to expand on your thoughts by adding more spokes to the map.





Directed Reading Thinking Activity (DRTA)

A DRTA may be used with an individual, a small group, or a whole class. This activity can be easily adapted for a variety of subjects and reading levels. This strategy helps strengthen reading and critical thinking skills. As the teacher guides the process, the DRTA teaches students to determine the purpose for reading and make adjustments to what they think will come next based on the text.

Create and use the strategy

Determine the text to be used and pre-select points for students to pause during the reading process. The reading should be broken into small sections so that the students have time to think about and process information. The amount of reading should be adjusted to fit the purpose and the difficulty of the text. Introduce the text, the purpose of the DRTA and gives examples of how to make predictions. Be aware of the reading levels of each student, and be prepared to provide appropriate questions, prompts, and support as needed. Encourage students not to be intimidated by taking a risk with predictions and not to feel pressure to state only correct predictions.

D - DIRECT - Teachers direct and stimulate students' thinking prior to reading a passage by scanning the title, chapter headings, illustrations, and other explanatory materials. Then teachers should use open-ended questions to direct students as they make predictions about the content or perspective of the text (e.g., "Given this title, what do you think the passage will be about?"). Students should be encouraged to justify their responses and activate prior knowledge.

R - READING - Teachers should have students read up to the first pre-selected stopping point in the text. The teacher then prompts the students with questions about specific information and asks them to evaluate their predictions and refine them if necessary. This process should be continued until students have read each section of the passage.

T - THINKING - At the end of the reading, teachers should have students go back through the text and think about their predictions. Students should verify or modify the accuracy of their predictions by finding supporting statements in the text. The teacher deepens the thinking process by asking questions such as:

- What do you think about your predictions now?
- What did you find in the text to prove your predictions?
- What did you find in the text that caused you to modify your predictions?

NOTE: Writing may be included as part of the DRTA. As students become more comfortable with this strategy, have each student write predictions in a learning log or on a piece of paper. Then, in small groups, students can discuss their predictions and share their thinking processes. Next ask students to write summary statements about how their predictions compared to the passage.



During Reading

Double-entry journals

As you read the text, select a few phrases that you find meaningful or interesting. Write each phrase in the first column below, then write your reaction (a comment, question, connection made, or analysis) each quote in the second column.

Page in text	From the text	My thoughts



Inferential Reading

Inferences are the conclusions we draw based on what one already knows and judgments we make based on given information. This strategy helps students make connections between their personal experiences and their comprehension of a text. Rather than stopping students during the reading process to comment on specific points, this strategy focuses on their thinking and how new information reshapes their prior knowledge. Inferential reading can be taught using a variety of reading material beyond assigned textbooks (i.e. cartoons and bumper stickers can be used as a way to help students think about what authors imply). As students develop inferential reading skills they learn to:

- understand the intonation of characters' words and relationships to one another
- provide explanations for ideas that are presented in the text
- offer details for events or their own explanations of the events
- recognize the author's view of the world including the author's biases
- offer conclusions from facts presented in the text
- relate what is happening in the text to their own knowledge of the world

Students can also use inferential reading to help them with new or difficult vocabulary by figuring out 1) antecedents for pronouns, 2) the meaning of unknown words from context clues, and/or 3) the grammatical function of an unknown word.

Create and use the strategy

Teachers should begin by reading the assigned passage before presenting it to students. The next step is to identify 3 or 4 main ideas in the reading selection. Teachers then develop a series of pre-reading questions for the reading assignment. The questions should 1) elicit previous knowledge of the topic (e.g., "What are your own attitudes and experiences about [idea]?"), and 2) point beyond past knowledge and encourage students to make predictions about the reading (e.g., "What do you think the article will say about [idea]?"). Teachers may wish to model this strategy using a short read aloud.

1. Have students first think about inferences they make every day in their lives.
2. Encourage students to discuss both their prior knowledge of the topic and their predictions about the reading selection.
3. Have students write predictions and speculations prior to reading the selection.
4. Ask students to read the selection as a whole without interruption.
5. After reading, have the students review their written predictions about the passage.
6. Ask students how the new information changed/reshaped their prior knowledge.



Sample prompts

Include comments like those listed below to help students learn to make various types of inferences:

1. "Look for pronouns and figure out what to connect them to."
2. "Figure out explanations for these events."
3. "Think about the setting and see what details you can add."
4. "Think about something that you know about this (insert topic) and see how that fits with what's in the text."
5. "After you read this section, see if you can explain why the character acted this way."
6. "Look at how the character said (insert a specific quote). How would you have interpreted what that character said if he had said (change how it was said or stress different words)?"
7. "Look for words that you don't know and see whether other words in the sentence or surrounding sentences can give you an idea what those unknown words mean."
8. "As you read this section, look for clues that would tell you how the author might feel about (insert a topic or character's name)."



	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4	Other Interesting Facts	New Questions
What We Know						
Source 1						
Source 2						
Source 3						
Summaries						



Jigsaw activity

As you read and discuss with your group, write down important facts about your topic. After you have become an expert on your own topic, you will share your findings with a group of classmates, and learn about their topics as well.

Important Ideas

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Summary

Other Facts



Monitoring/Clarifying

Monitoring/Clarifying helps students to focus their attention on the fact that there may be reasons why the text is difficult to understand. Students can be taught to ask questions, reread, restate, and visualize making the text more comprehensible.

Create and use the strategy

Pre-select and introduce the text to be used based upon each student's reading level. Next, model the Monitoring/Clarifying process while providing students with ample time and opportunities to practice.

Ask students to begin reading the assigned text and use the following steps as they encounter difficulties:

- Stop and think about what you have already read.
- Reread.
- Adjust your reading rate: slow down or speed up.
- Try to connect the text to something you read in another book, what you know about the world, or to something you have experienced.
- Visualize.
- Reflect on what you have read.
- Use print conventions (key words, bold print, italicized words, and punctuation).
- Notice patterns in the text structure.

Paragraph Shrinking

Paragraph Shrinking does not require special reading materials and consequently enables teachers to use the reading material of their choice. This offers teachers flexibility for incorporating the strategy into various content areas. Paragraph Shrinking provides direct opportunities for a teacher to circulate in the class, observe students, and offer individual remediation.

Create and use the strategy

Choose the assigned reading and introduce the text to the students. Then create pairs within the classroom by identifying which children require help on specific skills and who the most appropriate children are to help other children learn those skills. Model the activity to ensure that students understand how to use the strategy.

During this process teachers should:

1. Each member of the teacher-assigned pair takes turns being "Coach" and "Player." These pairs are changed regularly. All students have the opportunity to be "coaches" and "players."

Note: It is important for teachers to monitor and support students as they work together.



2. Each student reads aloud for five minutes without rereading a text. After each paragraph, students stop to summarize the main points of the reading. Students are asked to summarize the following information:

- the who or what of the paragraph;
- the most important thing about who or what; and
- the main idea

If a "Player" ever gives a wrong answer, the "Coach" asks the "Player" to skim the paragraph again and answer question a second time. Students must state the main idea in ten words or less which encourages them to monitor comprehension while taking turns reading. The pair earns points when the above goals of the strategy are met.

Partner Reading

Partner Reading does not require special reading materials and consequently enables teachers to use the reading material of their choice. This offers teachers flexibility for incorporating the strategy into various content areas. Partner Reading provides direct opportunities for a teacher to circulate in the class, observe students, and offer individual remediation.

Create and use the strategy

Choose the assigned reading and introduce the text to the students. Then create pairs within the classroom by identifying which children require help on specific skills and who the most appropriate children are to help other children learn those skills. Model the procedure to ensure that students understand how to use the strategy.

1. Each member of the teacher-assigned pair takes turns being "Coach" and "Player." These pairs are changed regularly, and over a period of time as students work. Thus, all students have the opportunity to be "coaches" and "players."
Note: It is important for teachers to monitor and support students as they work together.
2. The stronger reader begins this activity as the "Player" and reads orally for 5 minutes. The "Coach" follows along and corrects any mistakes when necessary.
3. The pair switch roles and the weaker reader becomes the "Player." The "Player" rereads the same passage for the next 5 minutes and the "Coach" provides corrective feedback. One point is earned for each correct sentence read (optional).
4. After each partner has read the selection, teachers may wish to include the following additional activities:
 - Story retelling - students work together to retell the story by cooperatively providing input and correcting mistakes
 - Summarization - students support each other in developing a summary of the passage in 10 words or less
 - Writing - students write down the summary they developed and/or responses to the following:
 - the who or what of the paragraph;
 - the most important thing about who or what; and
 - the main idea



Power Notes

Directions: Complete the Power Notes outline started below. Begin with your main idea as a Power 1, and provide more detail about the topic with each following power level.

Power 1: Main Idea

Power 2: Detail or support for power 1

Power 3: Detail or support for power 2

Power 4: Details or support for power 3

Power 1:

Power 2:

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for students to write their Power Notes. The box is positioned to the right of the instructions and contains the labels 'Power 1:' and 'Power 2:' at the top left corner.



Reading Guides

Reading Guides are teacher-created and may be developed for a variety of subjects and reading levels. The strategy is especially helpful when used with text that is more difficult than students could comprehend through independent reading. Reading Guides may be used with the whole class, small groups or for individual work.

Create and use the strategy

The teacher determines the major concepts from an assigned text and considers each students' knowledge related to the concepts. Teachers then write items designed to guide readers through the major ideas and supporting details of the text. Guides may be phrased as statements or as questions.

Begin the activity by introducing the assigned text and discussing the main concepts. Then present the items on the Reading Guide. Students read the assigned text and complete the tasks on the Reading Guides during the reading process. Monitor and support students as they work.

Note: As students gain proficiency at completing Reading Guides, they may design their own guides and provide support for one another.

Sample content for a reading guide

The following is a list of sample items that teachers might include on a Reading Guide:

- What is the main idea of the text?
- The author's purpose for writing the text is...
- The author discusses the differences between ____ and ____ .
- What are the important dates discussed in the reading?
- The most significant contribution of ____ was...
- What might be your personal experiences related to the reading?
- The author's motivation for writing the text was...



Semantic Feature Analysis

The Semantic Feature Analysis strategy engages students in reading assignments by asking them to relate selected vocabulary to key features of the text. This technique uses a matrix to help students discover how one set of things is related to one another. Use this strategy to help students:

- understand the meaning of selected vocabulary words
- group vocabulary words into logical categories
- analyze the completed matrix

A Semantic Feature Analysis improves students' comprehension, vocabulary, and content retention. This strategy helps students to examine related features or concepts and make distinctions among them. By analyzing the completed matrix, students are able to visualize connections, make predictions, and better understand important concepts.

Teachers can use this strategy with the whole class, small groups, or individually. Monitoring each student's matrix provides teachers with information about how much the students know about the topic. This allows teachers to tailor instruction accordingly.

Create and use the strategy

Select a passage of text for students. Model the procedure for using the matrix as a tool for recording reading observations. Provide students with key vocabulary words and important features related to the topic. Assist students as they prepare their matrix. Vocabulary words should be listed down the left hand column and the features of the topic across the top row of the chart. Once the matrix outline is complete, review all the words and features with the students and have them carefully read the text selection.

Follow the steps below for using the Semantic Feature Analysis strategy:

1. Have students read the assigned text.
2. As they read, have students place a "+" sign in the matrix when a vocabulary word aligns with a particular feature of the topic. If the word does not align students may put a "-" in the grid. If students are unable to determine a relationship they may leave it blank.
3. After reading and completing the matrix, have students analyze their completed graphics by:
 - sharing their observations;
 - discussing differing results; and/or
 - writing a summary of what they learned



Story Title

Setting

Where?

When?

Main Characters

Problem

Event 1

Event 2

Event 3

Resolution



Text Structure

Text structure refers to how the information within a written text is organized. This strategy helps students understand that a text might present a main idea and details; a cause and then its effects; and/or different views of a topic. Teaching students to recognize common text structures can help students monitor their comprehension.

Teachers can use this strategy with the whole class, small groups, or individually. Students learn to identify and analyze text structures which helps students navigate the various structures presented within nonfiction and fiction text. As a follow up, having students write paragraphs that follow common text structures helps students recognize these text structures when they are reading.

Create and Use the Strategy

To create the text structure strategy teachers should:

1. Choose the assigned reading and introduce the text to the students.
2. Introduce the idea that texts have organizational patterns called text structures.
3. Introduce the following common text structures (see [chart](#) below for more detailed information):
 - o description,
 - o sequence,
 - o problem and solution,
 - o cause and effect, and
 - o compare and contrast.
4. Introduce and model using a graphic organizer to chart the text structure.

To use the text structure strategy teachers should:

1. Show examples of paragraphs that correspond to each text structure.
2. Examine topic sentences that clue the reader to a specific structure.
3. Model the writing of a paragraph that uses a specific text structure.
4. Have students try write paragraphs that follow a specific text structure.
5. Have students diagram these structures using a graphic organizer.



Examples

Text Structure	Definition/Example	Organizer
Description	<p>This type of text structure features a detailed description of something to give the reader a mental picture.</p>	Descriptive Pattern [pdf]
Cause and Effect	<p>EXAMPLE: A book may tell all about whales or describe what the geography is like in a particular region.</p> <p>This structure presents the causal relationship between an specific event, idea, or concept and the events, ideas, or concept that follow.</p>	Describing Qualities [pdf]
Comparison/Contrast	<p>EXAMPLE: Weather patterns could be described that explain why a big snowstorm occurred.</p> <p>This type of text examines the similarities and differences between two or more people, events, concepts, ideas, etc.</p>	Cause-Effect Pattern [pdf]
Order/Sequence	<p>EXAMPLE: A book about ancient Greece may explain how the Spartan women were different from the Athenian women.</p> <p>This text structure gives readers a chronological of events or a list of steps in a procedure.</p>	Process/Cause and Effect [pdf]
Problem-Solution	<p>EXAMPLE: A book about the American revolution might list the events leading to the war. In another book, steps involved in harvesting blue crabs might be told.</p> <p>This type of structure sets up a problem or problems, explains the solution, and then discusses the effects of the solution.</p>	Comparison/Contrast [pdf]
		Sequence Pattern [pdf]
		Chronological Sequence [pdf]
		Problem-Solution Organizer



Word Hunts

Word Hunts are used to enhance students' vocabulary growth. Teachers ask students to look for words and patterns in reading materials based upon selected features. Word Hunts focus on the structure and meaning of words by turning students' attention to spelling patterns and root words.

Opportunities for students to work with words are important to enhancing students' vocabularies, as well as increasing their comprehension. The Word Hunt strategy is a fun, versatile, and simple technique to improve students' vocabulary. Use this strategy with the whole class, small groups, or individually. Word Hunts help students learn how words are used in different contexts.

Create and use the strategy

1. Introduce the book or topic to be read along with the specific word patterns of study;
2. Provide students with written material (i.e., newspapers, magazines, dictionaries, novels, and/or news articles on the internet).
3. Model word hunting by using a portion of text copied onto chart paper, overhead transparencies, or a familiar book
4. Demonstrate how to locate words that fit the patterns under study and how to record those word into categories
5. Ask the students to read and reread a text to find words that fit a particular pattern.
6. Have students write down words they find that fit the desired patterns in journals or on charts.
7. Ask student to form small groups and read the words they found aloud.
8. Have students check to see what new words they can add to their journals or charts.
9. Ask students to find words that they can group together in categories.
10. Record the words on chart paper for a whole-class display.