

Activity to Assist Students in Becoming More Actively Involved in Thinking Deeply About Text

Think-Before-You-Read Activity Sheet

In textbooks, look at pictures and illustrations, maps and charts, captions, chapter titles, section titles, and bold words, and then focus on the first things and last things the chapter says.

In storybooks, describe the picture on the cover, read the text on the back cover, look over chapter titles and the beginning page of the book, and read any prologue or introduction.

Next, finish each sentence and then add one or two more sentences of your own.

- After I look at the reading, I predict that I will be reading about . . .

- I already know something about this topic. I know that . . .

- Something I don't know about this topic and would like to find out more about is . . .

- What I can do when I can't read the textbook is . . .

Support Strategies for Teachers

1. Provide supplemental resources on the topic at a more accessible reading level.
2. Modify the text by:
 - Using graphic organizers to focus reading (see chapter 5)
 - Highlighting key portions of the text
 - Making comments in the margin using sticky notes
 - Building background knowledge through images, video clips, preteaching, and so on
 - Listening to taped portions of the text or modified versions of the text (played on an MP3 player or iPod)
 - Modeling and demonstrating the major themes
 - Reading it using guided reading groups, shared reading, interactive groups, choral reading or echo, and so on
 - Reading to learning partners using jigsaw, reciprocal reading, read-around groups (students taking turns reading), and so on
 - Reviewing content frequently to assist in the sequence for students having difficulty following the story-line
 - Providing copies of reading material with main ideas underlined or highlighted
 - Introducing new words by connecting how the words are related to the meaning of the text
 - Using an index card or paper strip to keep your place on the page and to facilitate tracking