

Comprehension: The Ultimate Goal of Reading

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Why Students Struggle with Comprehension

Strategies for Developing Comprehension

Planning a Comprehension Lesson for Expository Text

A. *Present the Hook* – Before students read, hook their attention. Show a picture, ask a question, or tell a riddle or joke that will promote discussion related to the passage students are going to read.

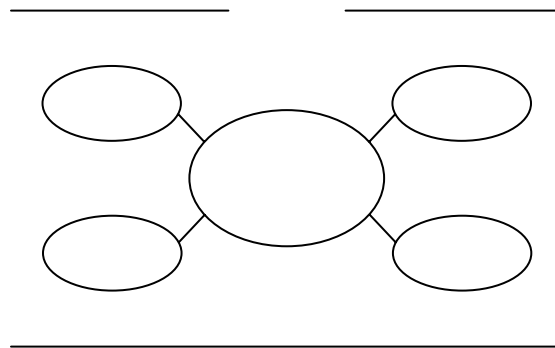
B. *Set a Purpose* – Setting a purpose for reading helps students become purposeful or goal-oriented as they read. The purpose for reading can be to gain information or to be entertained.

C. *Activate Background Knowledge* – Asking questions before students read activates their background knowledge and helps them become active and reflective as they read. As students read, encourage them to *connect, correct, and collect*.

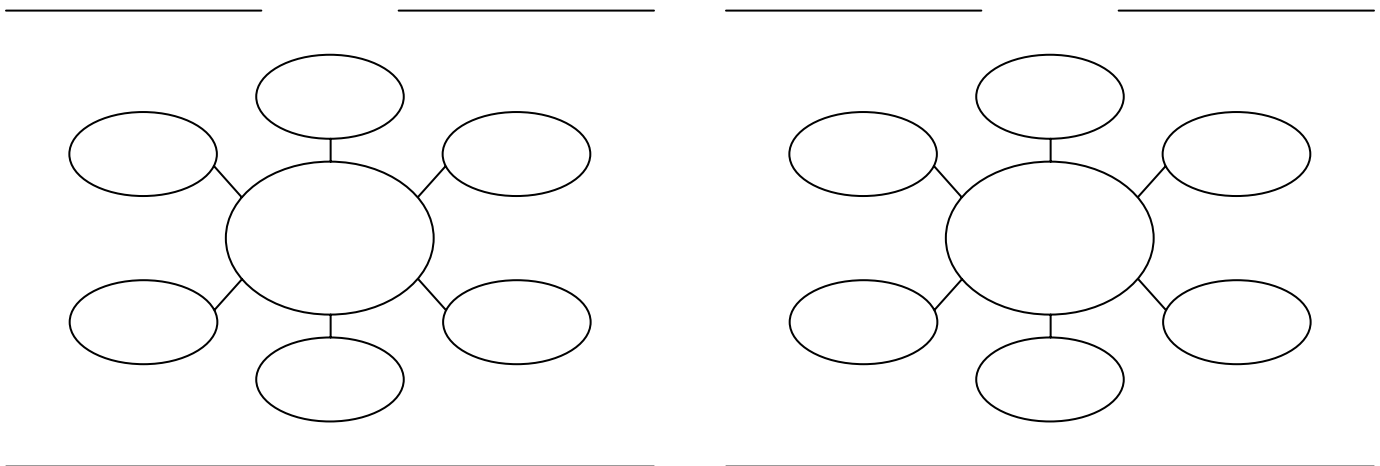
<u>Connect</u>	<u>Correct</u>	<u>Collect</u>

D. Complete Vocabulary Webs –

Semantic Web



Derivative or Multiple Meaning Web



E. *Read the Passage* – Students read the passage. Encourage them to *connect*, *correct*, and *collect* as they read.

F. *Summarize the Passage* – Summarization requires students to think about what they have read and to identify the most important information in what they have read.

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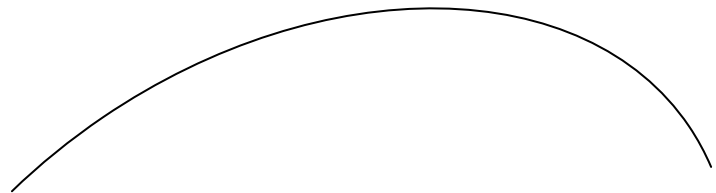
G. Précis – Students write a summary paragraph.

H. *Ask Questions* – Answering questions after reading confirms that students understand the passage and supports their learning through reading. The answers to “simple” questions are found in the passage. The answers to “complex” questions are not directly stated in the passage. Students are required to make inferences or draw conclusions based on the information in the passage and/or their prior knowledge or experiences.

I. *Extending Beyond*

Planning a Lesson for Narrative Text

- A. *Present the Hook*
- B. *Set a Purpose*
- C. *Activate Background Knowledge*
- D. *Complete Vocabulary Webs*
- E. *Read the Passage*
- F. *Summarize the Passage*



G. Précis

H. *Ask Questions*

I. *Extending Beyond*

CUE CARDS

Green Cards

Yellow Cards

Red Cards

THE PLAINS INDIANS

The Height of the Civilization

Long before the European settlement of America, people lived on the Great Plains. In the 19th century there were 31 Plains tribes. The tribes included the Apache, Comanche, Pawnee, Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho. In 1850, these tribes contained about 175,000 people who lived across the Great Plains.

Tribal Similarities and Differences

The Plains Indians differed from tribe to tribe. Although their languages were different, they communicated with each other using a complex sign language. The tribes were *nomadic*, which means moving from place to place. They had their own tribal laws. Indians in some tribes wore clothes made of buffalo skin and some wore deerskin. Some tribes were divided into bands.

Treaties and Acts

In 1851, the Indian agents used gold to persuade the Plains Indians to sign an agreement known as the Fort Laramie *Treaty* in 1851. As a result of signing the treaty, the Indians agreed to stay within limited areas and not attack. The Kansas-Nebraska Act brought settlers pouring into the lands that had been reserved for the Indians. Consequently, by 1860 there were very few Native Americans in Kansas or Nebraska.

The Decline of the Civilization

From around 1780 to 1850, the Plains Indians lived in the midst of an *immense* or large grassland, feeding freely upon buffalo. Lust for land, diseases, and America's mechanical genius began to erode the Plains civilization in the 1850s. The discovery of vast silver and copper deposits throughout the sixties, seventies, and eighties further eroded the civilization. The bloody battle at Wounded Knee in 1890 ended the Plains Indians' independent way of life.

Questions to Answer

1. What are five tribes of Plains Indians?
2. How did the tribes differ?
3. What was the result of the Laramie Treaty?
4. What factors eroded the civilization of the Plains Indians?
5. What was the last battle of the Plains Indians?



Buffalo roamed the Great Plains and provided food and hides for Plains Indians.

Poetry

1. Read chorally.
2. Read chorally. Identify the meter, the rhyming words, repeating words, figurative language, and word choice (connotation).
3. Read chorally. Determine the tone and mood.
4. Read chorally. Determine the meaning.
5. Read chorally. Decide how you feel about it.

Dream Deferred

By Langston Hughes

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up

Like a raisin in the sun?

Or fester like a sore—

And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat?

Or crust and sugar over—

Like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags

Like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

Not in Vain

By Emily Dickinson

If I can stop one heart from breaking,

I shall not live in vain.

If I can ease one life the aching,

Or cool one pain,

Or help one fainting robin

Unto his nest again,

I shall not live in vain.

The Midas Touch

King Midas lived a long time ago. This covetous king lived in a grand castle with his fair and tender daughter. He had great coffers of gold. He spent hours each day fingering and counting his gold.

One day a shoeless stranger dressed in ragged clothes came to his door and asked for a meal and a place to spend the night. King Midas was so busy with his gold that he paid little attention to the stranger and to his requests but gave him food and shelter for the night.

In the morning, the stranger wished to thank King Midas for his kindness. He found King Midas in his counting room, counting his riches. After thanking the king, the stranger said, "I see that you have much gold. How would you like even more gold?" King Midas was delighted with the prospect of obtaining more gold.

"When tomorrow's sun creeps in through your window, everything you touch will turn to gold," said the stranger. King Midas hardly slept that night. He sat in a chair by his bedroom window, waiting for the new day to dawn.

When the new day dawned, he touched the chair he was sitting in. It turned to gold. He touched the curtains that hung by the window. With great joy, King Midas touched all the things in his bedroom. They turned to gold. He quickly ran from his room, so he could touch everything in his castle and turn all to gold.

As King Midas walked down the long hallway from his room, his daughter ran to greet him. Without thinking, he lifted her into his arms. She turned into a gold statue. King Midas became troubled and sad. He ordered his men to find the stranger and bring him back to the castle. The men went out and returned shortly with the stranger.

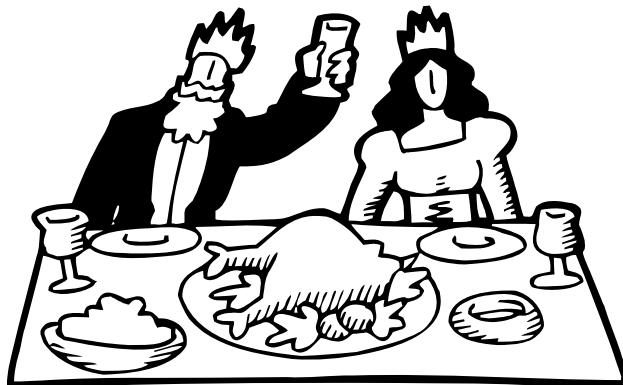
"Please," cried the king as he held his daughter in his arms, "I want my daughter back."

"But I thought you wanted more gold," replied the stranger.

"I have learned that my loving daughter is more important to me than all the gold in the world. If only I could have her back, I would wish for no gold at all. Please give her back to me!" pleaded the king.

"When tomorrow's sun creeps in through your window, you will have your daughter back, but all your gold will be gone," said the stranger.

King Midas hardly slept that night. When the new day's sun crept through his window, his daughter was alive and in his arms. He hugged and kissed her and delighted in the fact that she was alive. His gold was gone, but King Midas happily spent his remaining years in his castle with his loving daughter.



King Midas and the Golden Touch

King Midas lived in Asia Minor. He was a very rich king, but unfortunately his greed far surpassed his wisdom. King Midas' greatest desire was to be the richest man in the world, and this desire filled all his thoughts.

One day an old satyr called Silenus came to King Midas' palace. King Midas recognized Silenus as a friend of the god Dionysus, and saw through Silenus an opportunity to increase his own wealth. King Midas invited Silenus into his palace and showed him great hospitality entertaining him generously. The god Dionysus naturally was quite pleased with king Midas' hospitality. In appreciation of the hospitality king Midas showed Silenus, the god Dionysus offered King Midas a wish for anything he desired. King Midas greedy as he was quickly wished without thinking that everything he touched be turned to gold. This would clearly make him the richest man in the world.

The god Dionysus kept his promise and as a result everything king Midas touched turned to gold. King Midas then went round his palace and in glee turned all he could to gold. King Midas then became hungry and decided it was time for him to eat, at this time his wish turned against him. Whatever king Midas touched turned to gold ...even his food. In his great hunger king Midas no longer longed for gold but for the most basic of foods. The king begged the god Dionysus to take away his horrid gift. The god Dionysus pitying the king told him his touch could be removed by bathing in the river. King Midas quickly went and bathed in the river, the river then became golden as a result of the king's body touching water. Till this day the riverbank appears golden as a result of king Midas' golden touch.

The Donkey and the Thorn Bush

Aesop

Once there was a farmer who was gathering baskets of juicy tomatoes, crisp green beans, and sweet corn from his garden. One by one, the farmer loaded his donkey with the baskets that were brimming with food.

“I have worked hard for all of this bounteous food. I planted the seeds and watered the young plants without fail. I tirelessly picked the weeds so that they would not choke the plants. And now I toil in the hot sun to bring this food home to my family.”

The farmer continued to work as there was much food to gather. While he worked, the farmer munched on handfuls of his crisp green beans. “I am indeed a fortunate man, for there can be no better food than what I am now gathering.”

The donkey stood by as the farmer labored on. As the donkey stood watching the farmer munch on his crisp green beans, he realized that he was hungry. Amid the farmer’s bounteous harvest, the donkey noticed a thorn bush growing and began to eat it. “How many people would be happy with the delicacies that I am carrying on my back? But for my tastes, the sumptuous, simple thorn bush is a veritable feast,” he said.

When the farmer had filled all the baskets and had loaded them onto the donkey, he and the donkey returned home. Each was no longer hungry and each was satisfied with his choice.

The Turtle and the Eagle

Aesop

There was a time when the turtle was not as happy as he is today. At one time, the turtle wanted to fly. That was all that he could think about. “If I could fly, I would be most happy!” said the turtle.

One day an eagle flew by. The turtle said, “Please help me to fly.”

The eagle said, “No, you have no wings and you are not made to fly.”

“There is nothing that I want more than to fly. Please, please help me. I will give you great, great riches,” said the turtle.

The eagle said that he would try to do his best. He took the turtle in his talons and flew up into the sky. When he was high in the sky, he said to the turtle, “It’s time for you to fly.” He dropped the turtle and the turtle fell to the rocks below. If it had not been for the turtle’s shell, the turtle would not have been able to tell his tale.

Today the turtle is most happy. When asked, he will tell you, “I have a shell that makes me what I am. I have no wings and I cannot fly. I will leave it at that!”

Three Boastful Boys

One hot summer day, three boastful boys stood at the peak of a hill at the edge of a forest and began to brag about who would become the greatest man.

“I will be the greatest of all men,” said the first one. “As I grow older, I will grow to be the tallest of all things.”

“No, I will be the greatest of all men,” said the second one. “As I grow older, I will grow to be the strongest of all things.”

“I am the oldest of the three of us,” said the third with glee. “I will grow to be the oldest of all things.”

Suddenly there came a rush of a cold, violent wind. The air around the three boys grew thick with dust. When the wind grew weak and the air cleared, the three boys were gone. There stood a lone pine tree, standing where the three boys had stood.

The boastful predictions of the three young boys did succeed. A pine tree is the tallest of trees, reaching far above the other trees in the forest. The first boy had boasted about becoming the tallest of all things. And now, as a pine tree, he was the tallest.

A pine tree is the strongest of trees, holding fast against the violent winds in the forest. The second boy had boasted about becoming the strongest of all things. And now, as a pine tree, he was the strongest.

A pine tree is the oldest of all trees, living longer than the other trees in the forest. The third boy had boasted about becoming the oldest of all things. And now, as a pine tree, he was the oldest. This tale reminds us that to the boastful unexpected and unwanted results come.