

Powerful Reading Interventions Grades 1-6

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Strategies for Teaching At-Risk Students

Research (Allington 2006) has found that students enrolled in high poverty schools, African-American students and Hispanic students begin school with lower skills, grow less academically during the school year and lose more skill over the summer than their wealthier and European-American peers. Following are some specific strategies to help these at-risk students make progress.

1. Increase attention to writing and its relationship to reading. Have students write every day.
 2. Provide greater student choice in what students read and write in the classroom.
 3. Provide greater integration of reading, writing, listening and speaking across all subjects in the curriculum.
 4. Design learning activities to enable children to move as they learn.
 5. Teach in small groups with a great deal of nurturing interaction between teacher and student and student and peers.
 6. Diminish the use of photocopied worksheets and workbooks. Emphasis should be place on hands-on activities, projects and active participation.
 7. Provide cultural-enrichment activities and culturally relevant instructional materials.
 8. Immerse creative arts into lessons.
 9. Build positive teacher student relationships.
 10. Maintain high expectations for all children.
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Reading Strategy Lesson Plan

Reading Strategy _____

Introduction

Demonstration

Student Participation

Assessment

Anticipation Guide

Rationale:

An Anticipation Guide is a very effective strategy to use before reading text. It activates prior knowledge, arouses curiosity, stimulates high-level thinking and promotes active involvement.

Procedure:

1. Write several statements with which students are invited to agree or disagree based on information in the text.
2. Have students work in small groups to discuss the items and decide on their responses. Have some students share their thinking with the whole class. Let students debate their decisions. Do not tell students the correct answers.
3. Have students read the material to confirm or revise their ideas. Have them discuss the statements again and cite evidence to support their revisions.
4. Wrap up the lesson by asking the following questions:
 - What was the most interesting thing you learned?
 - What other questions do you have about this topic?
 - How can you find out more about this topic?

Mark A for agree or D for disagree by each statement.

- _____ 1. Wolves are the largest animal in the Canis species which includes dogs and coyotes.
- _____ 2. A wolf may weigh as much as 200 pounds.
- _____ 3. Wolves will howl any time of day to communicate with each other or just for pleasure.
- _____ 4. Many wolves live in the desert.
- _____ 5. Wolves eat berries.

Key Word Summary

Key word summary is a highly effective strategy which helps students comprehend and summarize text. This strategy should first be taught as an interactive lesson. When students have mastered the strategy they can apply it to their independent work.

Preparation: Put text on a chart, overhead or make a copy for each child.

Interactive Steps:

1. Read and discuss the text aloud to the students. Make sure students understand the vocabulary and comprehend what the text is about.
2. With help from the students highlight key words. Have students give their reasons for why words should be highlighted.
3. Using interactive writing have students help write a summary of the text using the key words.

Independent Steps:

1. Students will read the expository text with a buddy or independently.
2. On the key word page student will write key words from the text in the top box. Then they can share and discuss their key words with a partner.
3. Students can write a summary of the text using the key words.

An elephant's skin is wrinkled. The skin is almost one inch thick. It will burn if it is exposed to the sun for a long time. That is why elephants spend much of the day in the shade.

Elephants need to keep their skin in good condition. They bathe in water and spray the water over their backs with their trunks. They spray mud over themselves to make a mudpack. After they bathe, they throw dust over themselves. The mud and dust protects their skin from the hot sun. The mud and dust also protects them from biting insects and parasites, which are little animals that live and feed on their skin.

The only hairs on an adult elephant's skin are a few bristles around the trunk and two hard, thick patches of hair at the tip of the tail.



Key Words

elephant's skin one inch thick burn sun
shade spray water mud throw dust
biting insects hairs few bristles

Summary

Even though an elephant's skin is one inch thick, it will burn in the hot sun. To take care of his skin an elephant stays in the shade. He sprays water and mud on his back with his trunk. Then he throws dust all over his body. This also protects the skin from insects.

An elephant has only a few bristles of hair, so it is very important that he is careful so that his skin does not burn.

Reciprocal Teaching Bookmarks

Predict

Use clues from the text or illustrations to predict what will happen next.

I think...because...

I'll bet ...because...

I suppose...because...

I think I will learn...because...

Question

Ask questions as you read.
Ask some questions that have answers in the text.
Use the question words *who*, *what*, *where*, *why*, *how*, and *what if*.

Try asking some questions that can be inferred. Use clues from the text plus your experiences.

Clarify

How can you figure out a difficult word or idea in the text?

1. Reread and reread
2. Think about word chunks you know.
3. Try sounding it out.
4. Read on.
5. Listen to see if it make sense?
6. Ask a friend.

Summarize

Using your own words, tell the main ideas of the text in order.

This text is about...
This part is about...

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Summarize

Using your own words, tell the main ideas of the text in order.

This text is about...
This part is about...

Word

Definition

Sentence

Picture