

SUMMARIZING

Composing Headings & Title Summaries

STRATEGY 1:



Composing Headings & Title Summaries

Having students write headings for each paragraph they read and a title for the entire passage, helps them identify the main ideas, then make associations between paragraphs and pages of the text.

Step-by-Step

1. Place a short piece of text on the overhead projector.
2. Make sure to white out the title and paragraph headings (see storyboard #1).
3. Read the first paragraph aloud and ask students to come up with possible headings. Write one of their suggested headings above the first paragraph (see storyboard #2). Read the next two paragraphs aloud, and repeat the process (see storyboards #3 and #4).
4. After modeling the strategy, assign a new text for students to read in pairs.
5. After every paragraph, ask students to write a two-to-three word heading (using Post-it Notes).
6. When headings for all paragraphs are complete, place students in groups of four and ask them to share and review their headings, then develop a title for the chapter (see storyboard #6).
7. Share titles with the whole class.

1

On the overhead is part of a story about the Madagascar aye-ayes. Our job is to come up with headings that capture the main idea for each paragraph and then think of a title that gives readers the big idea of the article.

Title:

Heading 1:

The aye-aye's odd-looking fingers, pointy teeth, big eyes, and huge ears give some people the creeps. Seeing an aye-aye is considered very bad luck to many residents of Madagascar, the African island country where these animals live in the wild.

Heading 2:

In parts of the country, people kill aye-ayes on sight, hoping to prevent anything "evil" from happening. The aye-aye's bad reputation isn't helped by the fact that it's active only at night, when things can seem a lot scarier to people.

Heading 3:

The truth about this five-pound animal, a type of lemur, is that it's harmless. Each one of its strange-looking characteristics helps an aye-aye survive. The little creatures are anything but scary. Aye-ayes are actually gentle, curious primates.

2

I'm going to read the first paragraph aloud, and while I'm reading, your job is to think of a heading, a two-to four-word title, that gives the main idea of the paragraph.

Heading 1: The Scary, Creepy Aye-Aye

The aye-aye's odd-looking fingers, pointy teeth, big eyes, and huge ears give some people the creeps. Seeing an aye-aye is considered very bad luck to many residents of Madagascar, the African island country where these animals live in the wild.

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