

## COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES: SENSORY IMAGING

This is a form of inference. Students will become engaged with text by forming sensory images using sensory images during and after reading.

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### MATERIALS:

Text Suggestions: excerpts from Charlotte's Web, Owl Moon, Country Mouse - City Mouse

### PROCEDURES:

- Refer to stories, poems, magazines, etc. as texts.
- **Modeling:** read a chosen text.
  - Explain imaging: ("When we make a movie in our minds of the people, places, and things in the text, it helps us understand what is happening in the text. We call it imaging."). Top for two or three "Think Alouds" ("When I read \_\_\_\_\_, I made a picture in my head \_\_\_\_\_ .")
  - Explain: ("The purpose of imaging is to help understand a text more effectively and to explain that what you already know will change because of what you read. A well- written text allows us to taste, touch, hear and smell as well as see when we read.").
- **Independent Reading:**  
When you are reading your story remember to make pictures in your mind.  
Using sensory images to help you understand what is happening in the text.
- **Practice:** Share images as you stop to do "Think Alouds"
  - Ask students to think aloud about their images during conferences
  - Allow students to draw their mental images.
- **Sharing:** share with group during discussions
  - Put responses on group charts
  - Use sensory imaging sheets to record their images and share these.

### ASSESSMENT:

- Conferences, anecdotal records, imaging charts, group sharing

### RESOURCES:

Harvey, Stephanie. Strategies that Work, <http://www.readinglady.com>

## Strategy: Creating sensory images

### Research says:

A wealth of research supports the idea that when children are taught to construct images representing ideas related to the text, their understanding of the text improves (Grambell and Bales 1986). In addition, poor comprehenders are more likely to be helped by imagery construction (Golinkoff, 1975).

Picture books suggestions for use as a Think Aloud:

#### Fiction

*Cloudy with a Chance Meatballs* Barrett

*Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney

*Oh the Places You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss

*Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Phister

*The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats

#### Nonfiction

*Hungry, Hungry Sharks*

#### Poetry

*Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* by Robert Frost

*The Road not Taken* by Robert Frost

*The Fog* by Cristina Rossetti

Teacher reads text without sharing pictures

Think aloud comments:

I can see . . .

I can hear . . .

I can smell . . .

I can feel . . .

I can taste . . .

It reminds me of . . .

I can picture (a sensory connection from your life)

Gradual release activities:

Teacher reads and student draws

Student reads and then draws