

COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES: SYNTHESIZING

Synthesizing involves merging new information with existing knowledge to create an original idea, see a new perspective, or form a new line of thinking to achieve insight. It can be described as the "AHA", a light bulb that comes on as we read.

MATERIALS:

Texts, Post-It notes, charts

PROCEDURES:

- Teach the children to stop every once in a while to think about what they have just read.
- Each piece enhances understanding and allows the reader to construct meaning
- nonfiction texts often convey information that allows the reader to form a particular viewpoint or change his/her thinking.
- Personal response allows students to integrate words and ideas of the text along with their personal questions and thoughts - this may lead the student toward achieving new insights.
- Retelling to Synthesize Information Framework – tell what is important; tell it in a way that makes sense; try not to tell too much.
- Model with a variety of picture books.
- Use charts or Post-Its to talk about synthesis; keep it brief and to the point.

EXTENSIONS:

- Concrete application: combine ingredients to make a cake batter; bake; show and discuss finished product (alternately use Lego blocks, jigsaw puzzles).
- Just as ingredients became a new thing, characters, settings, and plots become a story when put together.

RESOURCES:

Harvey, Stephanie. Strategies that Work

<http://www.readinglady.com>