

I did a 6 hour in-service in March on 5 of the comprehension strategies with a school in NC. In the beginning, we read an adult text from "Micro-Fiction" called "The Mayor of the Sister City Speaks to the Chamber of Commerce in Klamath Falls". I picked this one b/c it forced us to use lots of the strategies. Then we talked about what we found ourselves doing to comprehend it, and I made a list. We talked about how children often don't know that these are ways to improve their comprehension, and yet they may perceive much of what we give them to read just as confusing as this story was for us, as adults. Then we spent some time going over the "Mosaic" philosophy behind this type of teaching and how it's different from anything I've ever done before, in that it teaches metacognition, that the benefit is not in the destination as much as it is in the journey while we take the kids there, and explaining the gradual release of responsibility model.

Then I spent around 1 hour each on each of the 5 strategies (I meant to get to determining importance, but ran out of time - I'll do it in the follow-up workshop in May). For each strategy I read aloud children's book, modeling what it would look like in my classroom. This turned out to be very important for the teachers. Later, the feedback I got was that they could have listened to me read and model much more, and that they didn't like watching the videos from "Strategies That Work". I was very surprised by that, but later realized that I guess the videos are only really interesting if you have a frame of reference for this type of teaching. Once you've started it, then you have more questions about EXACTLY how it looks, and the videos are more valuable.

As the workshop went on I tried to gradually release more responsibility to them, so at first I just modeled with the schema strategy, then with questioning I had them call out questions for a group chart (I used the book "Fly Away Home"), then for mental imagery, they filled out individual picture frames, and after teaching inferring I passed out stacks of books that were good to use with inferring

and had them examine them page by page for questions that require inferential thinking. They compiled these on a form I made up and we put them in a file to be copied, so everyone could have a copy later.

This is getting long, so I need to stop. The short of it is, I got most of my ideas from the TOOLS page and this listserv. Anyone's welcome to borrow any of these ideas, since they belong to all of you anyway!

If you have more questions, I'll be happy to answer them, if I can.

Good luck!

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