



# Mental Images & Reading Comprehension

August 2003

A Creating  
Mental Images  
Strategy:  
**Coffeehouse  
Poetry  
Day**  
Pages 74-77

When readers create mental images, they engage with text in ways that make it personal and memorable to them alone. Anchored in prior knowledge, images come from the emotions and all five senses, enhancing understanding and immersing the reader in rich detail (Keen and Zimmerman).



*Images from reading frequently become part of the reader's writing.*

*Readers adapt their images as they continue to read.*

## Anchor Mini-Lessons

### Page 80

Images are created from readers' schema and words in the text. (poems)

### Page 81

Readers create images to form unique interpretations, clarify thinking, draw conclusions, and enhance understanding (dramatic response). *The Zoo at Night* by Martha Robinson

### Page 82-83

Readers' images are influenced by the shared images of others (artistic response). (poems) "Ducks on a Winter Night" by Georgia Heard (see pg. 89)

### Page 83-84

Images are fluid; readers adapt them to incorporate new information as they read (artistic response). *Greyling* by Jane Yolen

### Page 84-86

Evoking vivid mental images helps readers create vivid images in their writing (artistic/written response). *Mountain Streams music CD*

## Suggested Books

*Close Your Eyes*

by Jean Marzolo

*Color Me a Rhyme*

by Jane Yolen

*Creatures of Earth, Sea, and Sky*

by Georgia Heard

*Footprints and Shadows*

by Anne Westcott Dodd

*Goodnight to Annie*

by Eve Merriam

*Greyling*

by Jane Yolen

*I Am the Ocean*

by Suzanna Marshak

*Mountain Streams*

(compact disc)

*The Napping House*

by Audrey Wood

*Night in the Country*

by Cynthia Rylant

*Night Sounds, Morning Colors*

by Rosemary Wells

*Putting Sheep to Sleep*

by Shelley Moore Thomas

*Quiet, Please*

by Eve Merriam

*The Salamander Room*

by Anne Mazer

*Say Something* by Mary Stolez

*What Does the Rain Play?*

By Nancy White Carlstrom

*When I'm Sleepy*

by Jane R. Howard

*Wild, Wild Sunflower Child*

by Nancy White Carlstrom

*The Zoo at Night*

by Martha Robinson

**In the Beginning: Thinking Aloud**

A favorite book about creating mental images is *Night Sounds, Morning Colors* by Rosemary Wells.

"Look. Listen. Open all your senses."

### Question:

*What text is best when children begin to become more adapt at making mental images on their own?*

### Answer: POETRY

Poetry is short, thought-provoking, and full of images.