

ROBERT THE READER (Total Reader Brain) IDEA

One of our colleagues, Kimberly, who always takes the bulls by the horns, jumped on one of Jan's suggestions from class -- she made this huge poster of a head with the top portion kind of lifted open to reveal a drawing of a brain -- which was divided into puzzle piece segments. Each segment was labeled with one of the MOT strategies, with one additional piece labeled "FIX IT or DECODING STRATEGIES." Each of the pieces could be taken off of the poster individually. I hope you can all visualize this -- I'll see if we can get a drawing posted on the tools portion of the MOT listserv.

Anyway, the purpose of all of this was so the kids would get a visual that even though we might be focusing on ONE of the strategies at that moment, "ROBERT THE READER" always has ALL of the strategies available in his head as he reads and often might be using them simultaneously. Let's face it -- some texts don't lend themselves to a T-S connection at all, while other books are full of them AND stimulate tons of questions. Kimberly teaches sixth grade -- maybe she will respond to this and explain further -- and they seemed to get that. I think it will be even more helpful to my second graders.

I think I will spend some time introducing the "total reader brain" -- I'm thinking about putting together a puzzle for an anchor lesson -- sometimes we look for straight edges, sometimes we look for the correct shape, other times we look for matching colors, etc. Do you think that kind of explains how a strategic reader reads? I think the "reader brain" visual will allow me to move more flexibly between strategies when I need to do so -- especially when working with small groups.

Marcia/2nd