

## EXAMPLE OF THINKING ALOUD in a Questioning Lesson:

Here's what I had written as envisioning a questioning lesson. (I'm using a Ranger Rick magazine article when I get to the think-aloud):

>> I read something last night that I'd like to share with you. "A child's world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement." Now what do you think that means? Why is the world FRESH and NEW and BEAUTIFUL more for children than for some grown-ups? What makes children say, "I wonder why or how...?" What makes the world EXCITING for YOU?

"A child's world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement." That was written by a woman named Rachel Carson about 50 years ago. She also said that children like to ask LOTS of questions about all kinds of things. Remember when Meagan brought in those strange looking bug shells and we wondered about them? We asked lots of questions about cicadas! Remember when Reid brought in those curious-looking pieces of something that he found? We asked lots of questions- Could it be pieces of ceramic or pottery? Where did you find it, Reid? So, is it true? Do you have lots of questions inside? You do? Well guess what! Those special people that study what good readers do say that good readers ASK QUESTIONS when they read! They may ask those questions out loud or they may ask questions with that little voice inside that only they can hear, but GOOD READERS ASK QUESTIONS when they read.

Let me show you how it works. We all have questions inside, but we don't always pay attention to those questions we have. Like this magazine picture. When I look at this picture I wonder... "Who are these people? Are they related to each other- like a father and his son? Where are they? What are they looking at? Why are they taking pictures?" See how I'm already asking questions? Now with this picture I'm lucky! Because it's part of a magazine article I can read this article and see if it answers my questions. I have a reason to read this article now as I start reading. Listen to me read and see what happens. I'm going to make my inside voice come outside for you to hear what good readers do when they read.

(magazine article words are in quotations/thinking aloud in parenthesis)  
"Guanacos! I couldn't even pronounce the name at first. But finally I got my mouth to say it- gwa-NAH-koze." (Guanacos? I've never heard of that. I wonder what it is?) "And now I'm out here searching for animals with flappy lips and banana-shaped ears." (Oh! This must be a picture of a guanaco right here at the bottom of the page.)

"Why am I looking for guanacos? Well it was my dad's idea." (Are they on a special vacation trip?) "He makes films about wild animals." (Oh, I wonder if that's his dad's job? Like making those films we see on Discovery Channel maybe?) "And one day he decided to fly to a place near the tip of South America, in the country of Chile." (Wow, they're across the ocean in another country.) "He wanted me to help him find guanacos. I got to help carry cameras, microphones, and all sorts of equipment. I also helped by watching the animals and picking out good ones to film. Dad told me that guanacos are related to llamas, but llamas have been tamed and guanacos are wild." (Hmmm... I didn't know that llamas had been tamed. I wonder why people would tame llamas? For a pet, maybe?) "Guanacos get along great in the mountains. Guanacos can easily survive in the cold, thin mountain air." (Oh, so they're up in the mountains in that other country. I wonder how cold it is there) "And their hooves have two sharp toes each." (I wonder why that's important.) "Their toes are covered on the bottom with tough, leathery pads that help keep them from slipping. So guanacos are great at climbing steep mountain trails." (Oh! I wonder if llamas can do that, too. Is that why people tamed them? To help people by carrying things up steep, slippery mountain trails?)

And so on.....

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Grade 1