

Synthesizing

Activity: Side-by-Side Synthesis Conference

Purpose: To help children focus on what a reader does during reading in order to form a synthesis.

1. Teaching synthesizing is a challenge and may require individual conferences focused on helping readers to think about what they are reading, and to pay attention to the evolving meaning of the text.
2. During the conference, prompt students to think about their reading by stopping them periodically. Ask them to describe what the text is all about and to share their opinions, interpretations, and predictions.
3. A side-by-side conference is a great opportunity to nudge readers toward a synthesis. You can encourage students to interact personally with what they are reading by prompting them to assimilate the words, pictures, and ideas with their own personal thoughts. This creates opportunities for readers to achieve new insights.
4. The side-by-side conference allows you to focus on each reader's "Aha! moments."

