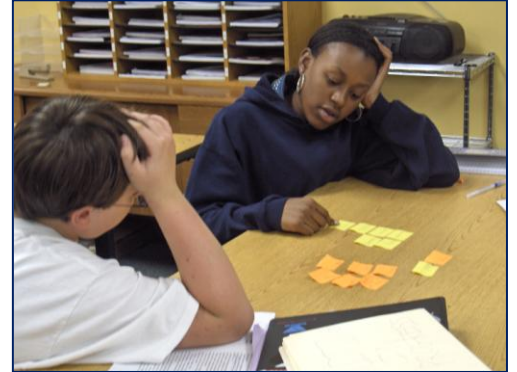


Intervention Strategies for Struggling Readers 3rd-5th Comprehension and Vocabulary

Strategy 1: Sticky-note Sort (shown in picture with MS students)

Learning Style/MI: Tactile, Kinesthetic, Visual, Interpersonal, Spatial



Directions:

- Begin by having students each pick a different character they know well from their book.
- Write a trait that character possesses on a sticky note (can use the character traits handout for ideas).
- Once students have 10 or so sticky notes, have them partner with someone who did a different character (it helps if they have a different sticky note color, too).
- Students look for similarities between the characters, and place those sticky notes side by side.
- Take the remainder of the sticky notes and separate on each side.
- The student has essentially created a Venn diagram.
- The power of this activity comes through the discussion between the students as they support their choices and challenge each others' thinking.

Next steps:

- Determine the extent of this activity. Do you want the students to then transfer the sticky notes to a Venn diagram worksheet? Respond in writing to what they've learned? Etc.
- Character traits are a concrete place to start with this activity, but it is also very appropriate for setting, theme, and other elements of plot.
- For differentiation, challenge higher students to take a character that is not as prominent in the book. More inferring is needed to rationalize their choices.

Possible Educational Objectives: The student can: (fifth grade curriculum)

- Use graphic organizers to aid in the comprehension of text
- Make generalizations
- Make connections
- Reflect on what has been learned from reading and discuss or write about ideas, opinions, or personal responses to text
- Analyze basic characteristics of major elements of fiction
- Analyze common themes that are state or implied
- Compare/contrast different elements of fiction used in texts

Strategy 2: Vocabulary Booklet (Dinah Zike's *Big Book of Books and Activities*, p. 96-97)

Learning Style/MI: Visual/spatial, kinesthetic

Directions: (it is recommended to do this activity in two phases: making the booklet, then working on the content)

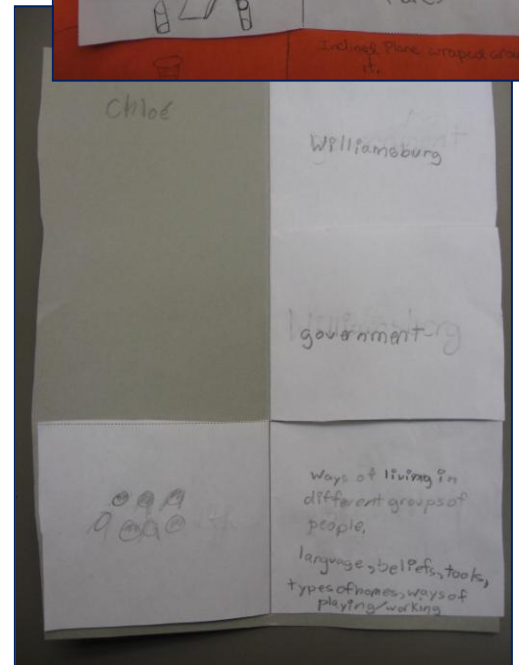
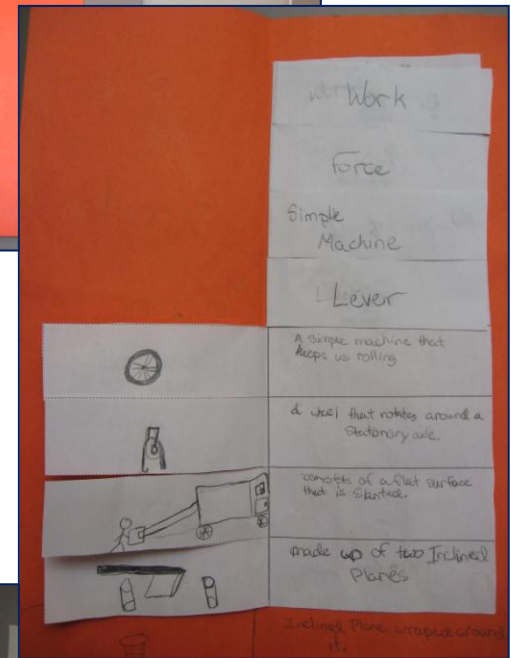
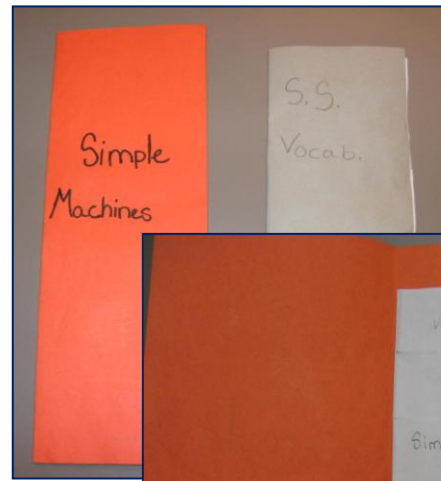
- Take an 8 ½" by 11" piece of construction paper and fold it in half (hot dog).
- Hand out the vocabulary booklet template the student will use for this assignment, explaining the procedure of cutting around the outside first
- Fold the paper in half on the darkened middle line (hot dog).
- Open the paper back up, and cut on the horizontal dotted lines.
- Glue the paper inside the construction paper cover.
- After the booklets have dried, explain the content to the students.

Next steps:

- This is a great activity for content areas. In the examples pictured to the left, one teacher used this as a simple machines booklet. The students wrote the name on the outside flap, illustrated it on one side of the inner flap, and defined it on the other side.
- In reading, students can use the booklet to find their own vocabulary words or use a predetermined list.
- Differentiation occurs by determining which template to use (for a regular student, they may find 8 vocabulary words, but a special education or Title 1 student may only be given the template for 3 or 4 words).
- The value of this activity is that students see it as something different and special – they typically put it in a place where it can be easily located. Preparing for quizzes, tests, etc. is a natural extension by using the booklets with flaps opened or closed.
- It is an option to glue inner pages to both sides of the open booklet, doubling its capacity.

Possible Educational Objectives: The student can: (fifth grade curriculum)

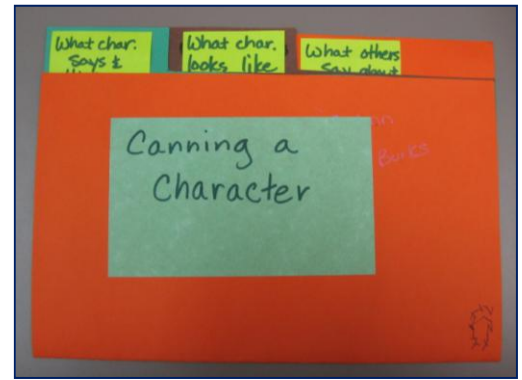
- Take notes and/or use graphic organizers to aid in the comprehension of text
- Summarize important points from texts



Strategy 3: Filing Cabinet (adapted from Dinah Zike's *Big Book of Books and Activities*, Paper file folders on p. 110-111)
Learning Style/MI: Visual/spatial, kinesthetic, tactile

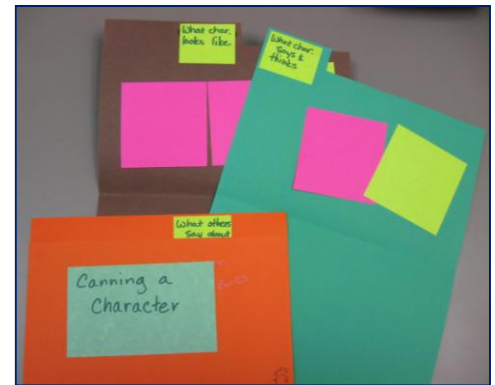
Directions:

- Students will each need 3 pieces of 9" x 11" construction paper (preferable different colors)
- Fold the construction paper, hamburger style, not quite in half – this give the file folder a "tab".
- After all 3 pieces are folded in the same manner, it is time to cut. Students will only cut 2 of the folders, as the 3rd folder can keep a full "tab". Take the first folder, and cut two-thirds of the extended "tab" off.
- Take the second folder, and cut only one-third of the extended "tab" off.
- Place the two folders that were cut into the folder that is still intact. The three "tabs" should be visible.



Next steps:

- Determine the content of the tabs. In the photos below, one filing cabinet was used for two different purposes by simply covering the labels on the tabs with sticky notes.
- One of the examples dealt with aspects of characterization. As students read a novel, they used sticky notes to record examples of the different types of character traits. These sticky notes were placed in the appropriate folder.
- The other example asked them to identify some potential themes early in a book, then find evidence and record it on sticky notes during reading. At the end of the book, the student selected the theme s/he felt most strongly about (usually, the folder with the most sticky notes) and used the sticky notes to support writing a theme paragraph.
- It is easy to use the folders as a formative assessment. When walking around the room, a teacher can quickly check the filing cabinet contents (or lack thereof).
- Once the student has gained the necessary information, any variety of reporting options can be used to demonstrate what was learned.



Possible Educational Objectives: the student can: (fifth grade curriculum)

- Use graphic organizers to aid in the comprehension of text
- Make generalizations
- Make connections
- Analyze basic characteristics of major elements of fiction
- Analyze common themes that are state or implied
- Take notes and/or use graphic organizers to aid in the comprehension of text
- Summarize important points from texts

