



Making Meaning[®]

What it is:

This K-4 program is designed to build reading comprehension and social skills through community building.

How it works:

Reading comprehension strategies (as defined by current research, state standards and standards for the National Council of Teachers of English) are explicitly taught through teacher-led read-aloud experiences and reinforced through guided and independent strategy practice. Individualized Daily Reading is targeted at the appropriately assessed reading level for each student. Students learn to understand their own reading and discuss their impressions with their peers. Student interaction encourages community building through respectful listening, sharing of ideas, and asking questions.

Comprehension Strategies:

The comprehension strategies are introduced at the grades where they are developmentally appropriate. The strategies are as follows:

- Retelling
- Using schema/Making connections
- Visualizing
- Wondering/Questioning
- Making inferences
- Determining important ideas
- Understanding text structures
- Summarizing
- Synthesizing

Social Skills and Community Building:

Making Meaning lessons help create a classroom environment where students feel a strong sense of belonging, support, autonomy and responsibility to themselves and to their classroom community. The social skills are introduced in developmentally appropriate framework and are grade dependent.

- Class meetings create a sense of community
- Collaborative work in pairs, groups of four and as a class
- Social and problem-solving skills
- Cooperative structures: Turn to your partner; Think, pair, share; Think, pair, write; Heads together; Group brainstorming
- Discussion that promote building on one another's thinking

Kindergarten through 4th grade comprehension strategy/social skill timeline and examples.

Kindergarten

Strategies taught directly:

- Retelling
- Making connections/Using schema
- Visualizing
- Wondering/Questioning

Strategy taught informally:

- Making inferences

Examples of social skills:

- Learning and using classroom procedures
- Speaking clearly
- Taking turns
- Appreciating and respecting one another's ideas
- Giving reasons to support thoughts and opinions
- Talking and listening to one another

Grade 1

Strategies taught directly:

- Retelling
- Making connections/Using schema
- Visualizing
- Wondering/Questioning

Strategies taught informally:

- Making inferences
- Understanding text structure
- Determining important ideas

Examples of social skills:

- Learning and using classroom procedures
- Speaking clearly
- Taking turns
- Appreciating and respecting one another's ideas
- Giving reasons to support thoughts and opinions
- Talking and listening to one another
- Using prompts to add to another person's thinking

Grade 2

Strategies taught directly:

- Making connections/Using schema
- Visualizing
- Wondering/Questioning
- Making inferences
- Understanding text structure
- Determining important ideas

Strategies taught informally:

- Retelling
- Summarizing

Examples of social skills:

- Taking turns
- Appreciating and respecting one another's ideas
- Giving reasons to support thoughts and opinions
- Talking and listening to one another
- Using prompts to add to another person's thinking

Grade 3

Strategies taught directly:

- Visualizing
- Wondering/Questioning
- Making inferences
- Understanding text structure
- Determining important ideas

Strategies taught informally:

- Making connections/Using schema
- Summarizing

Examples of social skills:

- Taking turns
- Appreciating and respecting one another's ideas
- Giving reasons to support thoughts and opinions
- Talking and listening to one another
- Using prompts to add to another person's thinking
- Asking clarifying questions
- Reaching agreement
- Discussing opinions respectfully

Grade 4

Strategies taught directly:

- Visualizing
- Wondering/Questioning
- Making inferences
- Understanding text structure
- Determining important ideas
- Summarizing

Strategies taught informally:

- Making connections/Using schema
- Summarizing

Examples of social skills:

- Talking and listening to one another
- Using prompts to add to another person's thinking
- Asking clarifying questions
- Reaching agreement
- Discussing opinions respectfully
- Confirming that they understood another person
- Including one another
- Contributing to group work

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