



Activity: Artistic Response - Visual Art

Students are encouraged to visualize as they read, and then asked to create a drawing or other artistic response to illustrate their understanding of the text. The act of expressing their mental images in a tangible form enhances students' understanding of what they read. It may prompt them to re-read and clarify their interpretations as they search for details to enhance their artwork.

Teaching phase	Learner behavior	Teacher behavior	Ongoing assessment
1. Demonstration <i>Teacher does, students watch/listen</i>	Listen actively and watch actively.	Teacher reads aloud a passage and draws/sculpts/cuts/paints and tells why he/she is picking these elements (e.g. - color tone, line shape, texture, size, balance, composition). Elements chosen to illustrate must be key to understanding the passage.	
2. Guided practice <i>Students do, teacher helps and prompts</i>	Students listen actively and volunteer elements to be included in the piece.	Teacher reads aloud, then elicits student suggestions for key elements to draw or add and has students explain why these are important to the text.	Are the suggestions key elements of the story?
3. Independent practice <i>Students do, teacher probes</i>	Students read and draw (etc.) elements suggested by text. Pair/share, justify choices.	Teacher walks around and probes student choices, asking for rationale regarding why the illustrations are what they are and why.	Are students able to justify choices made?
4. Application <i>Students do independently</i>	Students read and draw/create independently.	Teacher gives students opportunities to apply this strategy.	Does artistic response communicate the meaning of the text?

Guiding Principles

- Demonstration of understanding of text is more important than the quality of the product.
- Connection to text is most important. The product should not become the focus of the activity.
- Make the cross-over connections with principles of visual art.
- Students can select an artistic expression of their choice, e.g. drawing, sculpture, poster, travel brochure, etc.