

Inferences

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Objective: Students will learn how to make inferences using a variety of newspaper cartoons.

Materials: Overheads with a variety of newspaper comic strips and comic samples for students to use.

Procedure:

1. Introduce inferencing to class.
 - An inference is the ability to connect what is in the text with what is in the mind to create an educated guess.
 - There are two basic types of inferences: text-based and knowledge-based.
 - Text-based is information the author supplies in the text.
 - Knowledge-base is knowledge that each of us have about the world.
2. Display overhead copies of a few different comic strips.
 - Demonstrate through think alouds the humor that can be provided in comic strips.
 - Introduce the title and illustrator.
 - Explain what each frame is showing.
 - After explaining each frame, tell students what inferences you needed to help make the cartoon humorous to you.
3. Students work in small groups.
 - Pass out different comic strips to each group.
 - Students walk and talk through the frames together trying to find the humor in the cartoon.
 - Each group shares their cartoon with class explaining their inferences.
4. Summarize and reflect.
 - Ask students to volunteer their definition of inference.
 - Teacher writes students definitions on overhead.
 - Class then needs to combine the definitions into one succinct definition.
 - Definition is then mounted on large sheet of paper to be hung up for daily use.
5. Independent Practice.
 - Assign each student a comic strip that has not been shared with the class.
 - Students write their inferences in their reading journal.