

Literacy Strategy: Active Reading

To implement in the classroom:

1. **Explain the research** behind the strategy. Use the excerpt from Chris Tovani's book for guidance.
2. **Explain the actual process** for Active Reading: What will the students actually be doing? What should it look like?
3. **Model the process with a passage** and do a think-aloud. Show the students how you would think through the passage (maybe use an overhead to let them see you mark up a text).
4. Give the students lots of opportunities to **practice**, and give them **feedback**. Make sure students are working toward meaningful connections with the text.

Tips for Modeling Active Reading

1. Use a short story, poem or article (something accessible).
2. Give them a "Cheat Sheet" with the symbols for Active Reading (See below & on other sheet)
3. Read the story or text aloud, while the students practice annotating, either on the text or using Post-It notes.
4. Ask the students for examples of what they wrote down; discuss why what they picked out was important or why it wasn't.
5. Students will begin, through time, to see the difference between critical information and mere details.
6. Practice, Practice, Practice!

"Cheat Sheet" for Active Reading - Literature

Unfamiliar words

Characters

Setting

Important information

*Characterization

? – "I don't understand!"

! – "That surprised me!"

"Cheat Sheet" for Active Reading – Nonfiction

Unfamiliar words

Main Terminology & Important Information

? – "I don't understand!"

! – "That surprised me!"