

GROUP STORY MAPPING

WHAT IS STORY MAPPING?

Story mapping is a procedure which trains young students to recognize the basic framework of narrative stories in order to enhance their comprehension of text.

WHICH STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM STORY MAPPING?

Idol (1987) found that third/fourth grade learning-disabled and low-achieving students were able to learn how to use story mapping independently, and that their comprehension improved significantly.

WHAT IS THE STORY MAPPING PROCEDURE?

1. After the students silently read a story, the teacher shows the group an overhead transparency of the story map. Each student has a paper copy of the map. With the teacher's assistance, the students complete the story maps together.
2. After completing the story map, the students answer 10 comprehension questions independently.
3. When the students understand the mapping procedure, they complete the story maps without the teacher's guidance. Upon completion, the teacher regroups the children so they can share and correct their story maps.
4. Eventually, students are able to answer the comprehension questions without the preceding story map exercise, as they have internalized the framework of the narrative.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where did this story take place?
2. When did this story place?
3. Who were the main characters in the story?
4. Were there any other important characters in the story? Who?
5. What was the problem in the story?
6. How did _____ try to solve the problem?
7. Was it hard to solve the problem? Explain.
8. Was the problem solved? Explain.
9. What did you learn from reading this story? Explain.
10. Can you think of a different ending?

RESOURCE

Idol, L. (1987). *Group story mapping: A comprehension strategy for both skilled and unskilled readers*. Journal of Learning Disabilities, 20, 196-205.