

BOOK BITS Prereading Strategy Description

Rationale:

In the Book Bits strategy, sentences or phrases from the text are shared with the students in advance of reading the text. The Book Bits strategy is designed to:

- arouse student curiosity about text to be read
- stimulate thinking about the text
- access prior knowledge and experience
- assist students in making predictions
- promote interest and motivation in reading the text, and
- build schema for constructing meaning

Directions:

1. Select key phrases or sentences that are significant to the text. These *book bits* should reveal enough to help students begin to think along the lines that support text understanding, but not so revealing that they limit thinking.
2. Write each *book bit* on a strip of paper. There should be as many *book bits* as there are students in the group.
3. Give each student a *book bit*. Ask each student to read his/her *book bit* and think about how it is connected to the text.
4. After the students have read their *book bit*, they move about the room and read their *book bit* to others. No discussion occurs during this sharing – only the reading of the *book bits* to one another. (Consider dividing class into two equal groups. Form two parallel lines having students facing each other. Students facing each other read the *book bits* to one another. Then tell one of the lines to shift down one space. The student at the end of the row goes to the beginning for a new partner. Keep shifting until all *book bits* have been read aloud.)
5. Once students have had the opportunity to hear most of their peers' *book bits*, they return to their seat and do a quickwrite about the impressions they now have about the text. They might address what they think the selection is about or what they know about the characters or topic.
6. After completing the quickwrite, students discuss their ideas with one another.

Source: Yopp, R.H. and Yopp, H.K. (2001). *Literature-Based Reading Activities*, 3rd ed. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon, p. 33.

