Readers’ Strategies Lists (RSL), Part 2

The Readers’ Strategies List is a technique that helps capture the readers’ reading processes. Readers will become aware of the demands in different texts and the strategies that they use to comprehend these passages. Before reading, ask: “What do good readers do? How can you tell if someone is a good reader?” Record all the responses where all students can see them. This recording of readers’ strategies is used to construct a sense of the readers’ understanding of reading. Then ask the students to read the text. Ask the students: “What was hard?” “What did you do to make sense of the text?” Record the answers on the readers’ strategies list and connect these with the strategies on the list. Label as needed.

This is a listing of the strategies used to decode, decipher, and comprehend a passage. It is useful because it provides a common language for talking about reading (combining previous knowledge with new). Most importantly, it points out that different strategies are used with different types of reading. Readers will seek these tools to assist them in taking on more difficult reading tasks. Capture the reading processes by creating a RSL together. Post these in the classroom as tools to aid comprehension.

Why does this work? Readers’ Strategies Lists promote metacognitive conversation by guiding students in noticing their thinking, focusing on reading, taking charge of their reading, and becoming aware of subject area discourse. Part Two of this workshop will expand the discussion of basic applications of the Readers’ Strategies Lists and show you how versatile this routine is. Come learn how to use RSL in your classroom—5/11/2010 with Michele Lesmeister at 2:45 pm in J-302.

Look for a BIG Announcement about RA in the upcoming June Rat Review!

Conference Presentation about RA at RTC

Glenda Hanson and Michele Lesmeister presented their Reading Apprenticeship work at the League of Innovations in Baltimore, MD on March 31, 2010. They shared their classroom activities and data from their research.

Website of the Month

Reading Apprenticeship at Renton Technical College

"Reading Saves Lives!" declares one of the many posters on display across the campus of this technical college outside of Seattle. Adapting Reading Apprenticeship to classes as diverse as Nursing, Adult Basic English, and Math, faculty are seeing very promising outcomes. Faster completion of GED and more rapid progress through the levels of Adult Basic Literacy are among these outcomes. http://www.wested.org/cs/ra/print/docs/ra/success_renton.htm
Ask a RAT

Why would I do a Readers’ Strategies List more than once in my class? My students already thought of good strategies like “look at bold words” and “look at the pictures”.

Readers’ Strategies Lists are a Reading Apprenticeship® routine exploring what “good” readers do. A key word there is routine. We need to make the focus on reading and metacognition a regular part of our course. This allows students to develop their understanding and use of different skills over time and in different situations.

First, revisiting the Readers’ Strategies List allows students additional chances to comprehend and experiment with strategies suggested by classmates, as well as expand their arsenal of suggested strategies. As students use and practice their strategies, they will be able to clarify ideas and fine tune their ability to describe strategies. They will also notice or think of new strategies to share.

Secondly, the Readers’ Strategies List routine is text-specific. That means that the strategies that are brainstormed for one reading task are not necessarily the same strategies that apply to another task. For example, the strategies needed to comprehend a textbook chapter are different than the strategies you would use to read a flyer, a manual, or an advertisement. Also, don’t forget that a text doesn’t have to be on paper – consider Readers’ Strategies Lists for websites, videos, and other media.

To learn more about using Readers’ Strategies Lists, come to the workshop facilitated by Michele Lesmeister on Tuesday, May 11 from 2:45 — 3:45 PM in Michele Lesmeister’s classroom J-302. This is the second workshop (Part 2) on Readers’ Strategies Lists and will focus on creating readers’ strategies lists for reading textbooks and different types of literature. You are encouraged to attend even if you missed the first workshop (Part 1).

Library Item of the Month

The RTC Library has materials to support and help improve student reading and comprehension skills. For more info, contact the Library at 235-2331 or via email at librarian@RTC.edu.

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Rethinking Preparation for Content Area Teaching: The Reading Apprenticeship Approach

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Join the RATs!

RATs (Reading Apprenticeship Teachers and supporters) is the RTC support group for those who want to use WestEd’s Reading Apprenticeship®. Become a RAT and learn how to help improve your students’ reading skills and comprehension.

The RAT Pack is the training and planning leadership team to help get you started. Contact one of them today for more info about RA or RATs:

- Debbie Crumb
- Jenna Pollock
- Michele Lesmeister, Team Leader

For more info about RA at RTC, scurry over to our RATs website and blog!

http://rtc-rats.org/