

Effective Comprehension Strategy Instruction

Example: Finding Main Idea Strategy

Guiding Question	Example Language
1. Does the lesson explicitly explain what the strategy is?	Today we are working on a strategy to help find the main idea of a passage of text we read. The main idea is what the story is mostly about
2. Does the lesson explicitly state when the strategy is used?	You find the main idea after reading a part of the story
3. Does the lesson explicitly explain why the strategy is important to use?	Finding the main idea will help you understand the story and remember important parts of the story
4. Does the lesson explicitly state the steps for implementing the strategy?	To find the main idea, you will: 1. Name the who or what the paragraph/section is mostly about 2. Tell the most important information about the who or what 3. State the main idea in 10 words or less

Cooperative Parenting

Most animals leave the frozen Antarctic ice during the winter, but the emperor penguin stays and even incubates its eggs during the coldest months. Father penguins nestle the eggs in special areas on their feet, while the females go to sea to hunt and feed. During the intense cold, the males remain on the ice in an enormous group. They trade places from the outside to the inside in order to share the warmth

<p>5. Does the lesson plan suggest think-alouds the teacher can use to repeatedly state and model the “secret” of implementing the strategy successfully, so students will be able to “see” the mental workings or the thinking processes involved?</p>	<p>This part of the story is mostly about emperor penguins because most of the sentences give you information about them: Where they live in the winter, how they keep warm, and how they incubate eggs.</p> <p>The most important information about the emperor penguin is: they incubate eggs, and they stay in a large group and trade places to keep warm while they incubate the eggs. (Could also explain each phrase – why each is important or not)</p> <p>So, I would say the main idea is either (always give >1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emperor penguins huddle together to stay warm while incubating eggs ▪ Emperor penguins keep warm in a large group while incubating eggs <p>Don’t let students just take 1 important info statement as the main idea – must synthesize</p>
<p>6. Does the lesson provide scaffolded practice, with students having multiple opportunities to practice with teacher guidance, gradually moving to independent strategy use?</p>	<p>Scaffolded instruction consists of the modeling, teacher assisted, and independent phases. After modeling the strategy using think-alouds, provide opportunities for students to practice generating main ideas. Begin each lesson in the teacher assisted phase by asking students questions that will facilitate automaticity in using the strategy</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">What is a main idea? When do you find the main idea? Why do you find the main idea? What are the steps of the main idea?</p> <p>Modeling Phase: Model the main idea strategy using think-alouds until students are reading for the teacher assisted phase of instruction (A minimum of 3 models would be provided before moving into the teacher assisted phase)</p> <p>Teacher Assisted Phase: During this phase, lead students through each step of the strategy (A minimum of 3 teacher lead practice opportunities should be provided before moving to the independent phase).</p> <p>Independent Phase: After each independent practice opportunity, remember to conduct a debrief by asking students to share the main idea statements they generated. Remember to ask students to explain (think aloud) how they came up with their main idea statement. Return to teacher assisted phase if it is evident that students need additional instruction.</p>

7. Does the lesson focus on two purposes : reading for text content and for application of the strategy?	
8. Does the lesson close with an explicit statement about the strategy and how to implement it?	At the end of the lesson, ask the following questions as a closure activity: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is the main idea?2. When do you find a main idea?3. Why do we find a main idea?4. What are the steps of the main idea strategy?