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Edok #5

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Dr. Jeanie Cozens

Staal, L. (2000, September). The story face: An adaptation of story mapping that incorporates visualization and discovery learning to enhance reading and writing. *The Reading Teacher.* 54, 26-31.

CENTRAL THEME:

This article focused upon reading comprehension strategies to help students become better readers. Most teachers use whatever strategies they can to help students comprehend what they are reading. Research shows that proper implementation can help struggling readers gain the comprehension needed to be a better reader. Some of these strategies are cognitive mapping, critical thinking maps, semantic feature analysis, semantic mapping, story mapping, and visual imagery. All of these strategies use some form of visualization to help the reader remember what they have read. This article focuses upon one specific strategy called story mapping. The adaptation to the story map is called a story face. This is a new approach to help students better understand what they have read.

MAIN IDEAS:

1. The story face provides a series of shapes with labels, and it presents an image of a face that readers can relate the image to the context of the story.

2. Since children can already relate to the faces they see, the story face provides a recognizable object to outline the story.

3. The eyes are two circles that represent the setting and main characters. The eyelashes are for adding descriptions and secondary characters. The nose relates to the problem and the mouth is a series of circles that shows how the main events lead to a solution.

4. This process can be easy for competent readers due to the fact that they can rely upon their prior knowledge of attaching meaning to what they are reading. Less competent readers may struggle due to the fact that they may not have the necessary prior knowledge to utilize this tool.

AUTHOR’S CONCLUSION:

The story face can be adapted to fit the understanding of the reader. When demonstrating this to the students the first time, do not introduce this as a new strategy. Let the students determine what you are creating. Let them decide what is needed. Adaptations can be adding ears for those that might want to hear the story. An outline of the face and hair can personal responses to the story. This process works for all ages. This strategy can also be used for narrative writing. Since all of the elements are used in the creation of the face, the students can use this to brainstorm their ideas.

EVALUATION:

 I liked this article because the idea presented is usable and friendly. It is a great alternative to the traditional story map. I personally feel that students will remember how to use this process over the other method. Overall, this was a great article and a wonderful tool to use.