

Comprehension Through Comics

Description

“Comprehension through comics” is an intervention that uses comic strips to enhance a child's reading comprehension level and overall interest in reading. “Comprehension through comics” utilizes the visual representations in comic strips to extend the meaning of text and add an exciting element to the standard reading process. Comic reading can assist in the development of deductive reasoning, evaluative thinking, study skills, and cross-cultural learning. This is helpful for motivating children because they often feel connected to comic characters due to previous exposure and the humor-factor associated with such characters.

Materials

- Comic strips appropriate for child's reading level
- Internet access (optional)
- Elements of Comics worksheet (optional)

Preparation

- The teacher should be familiar with the elements of comics.
 - A list is available on www.kiddonet.com
- The elements of comics should be discussed with the child.
 - Prepare worksheets if implemented
- The intervention process should be explained to child.
- Computer and internet access should be planned for each child. (optional)
 - Websites should be marked.
 - Interactive features should be checked.

Implementation Steps

1. Children are given an explanation and example of the elements of comics.
2. Comic strip(s) is/are presented to group and/or distributed individually.
3. Children are given time to read and examine comics.
4. Comic strip(s) is/are discussed in a group setting or individual level.
 - Focus on themes, vocabulary words, story-line, etc.
 - Elements of comics worksheets are distributed and discussed if used.
5. Children are allowed to free-write and/or draw their own comics

Tips

- Students may enjoy bringing their own comics.
- Websites can be helpful tools that provide great activities.
- A “comic of the day” is a great way to introduce this intervention.

Reference

Kozdras, D. (2008). Gabbing About Garfield: Conversing About Texts With Comic Creator. Retrieved online from: www.readwritethink.org on September 10, 2008.

McVicker, C. J. (2007). Comic Strips as a Text Structure for Learning to Read. *The Reading Teacher*, 61 (1), 85.

Additional Resources

<http://www.professorgarfield.org>

www.kiddo.net