

Questions to Reveal Thinking for Creating Mental Images

Here are additional questions to go along with this strategy. Each question would follow a focused crafting session in which teachers and students share the many ways they rely on mental images to build comprehension:

- What did you see when you read those words? Does having this picture in your head make reading more fun? How?
- Where is that picture in your head coming from? What words in the text helped you make that picture? How did your background knowledge add to the details of this mental image?
- Now that you've pictured what's going on in this chapter, what predictions do you have for what will happen next?
- Have your sensory images changed as you read this story? What words added detail to your mind picture? Yes, one image does lead to another. How do these sensory images help you understand what you read?
- You're reading a nonfiction book today. What did the author do to help you grasp the facts? What does it look like in your mind? Oh, you see a comparison of the size of these two plants! Please share with the class how even charts can paint pictures in our mind.
- I noticed you've highlighted this poem where the author used powerful nouns and active verbs. Did these words help the poem come to life in your mind?
- Great! You've marked a spot where you were confused—where you couldn't see what's going on. Why do you think your "camera" shut off? What will you do to get back on track?
- You've just marked and talked about two strong sensory images in this newspaper article. Does thinking about these visual parts help you come up with what is important to remember from this report? Can you explain to the group about how seeing the facts in your mind helps you decide what information is the most important to remember?
- Good for you! You've found a spot where you paid attention to the description of the scene in the story. Can you describe the image these words brought to mind? What did you learn today as a reader that will help you as a writer?
- When you pause to reflect about these words, what visual images do they give you? Oh, your response to this character is an emotional one. Good readers do that. They interact with the characters—almost putting themselves in the book. That helps us to understand what we read. How could you describe these impressions about this character to others?
- We talked about how our sensory images deepen and change when we share our pictures with others. How has being a part of a discussion group helped you as a reader? Did your sensory images change after the share session?
- How is this working for you? Turn your paper over and tell me what you remember about your reading today. What do you notice about how your sensory images help you remember what you read?
- What advice would you give someone outside this class about how paying attention to visual images helps you as a reader? How would you explain *how* to create and use sensory images? What do these images *do* for your reading?