

Whisper Skim and Scan or Word Pop

Adapted from Lori Oczkus, Super Six Comprehension Strategies: 35 Lessons and More for Reading Success. 2004 Christopher Gordon.

About the Lesson

This easy to use technique encourages students to allow their eyes to skim and scan over text prior to reading with the purpose of looking for key vocabulary and concepts they may encounter in the text.

Introducing and Modeling Skimming and Scanning

-Select a text all students can see. Use either a big book with younger children (grade 2-up) or use an overhead transparency of a text that students also have a copy of. Tell students that you are going to model a technique that good readers use to preview text before they read.

-Placing one hand on the left hand side of the page and the other on the right hand side of the page move your fingers simultaneously down the page line by line and read aloud only key words that jump out at you. Tell students you are reading aloud words that pop out.

-Write some of the key words on a chart. Ask students to help you watch for these words while reading.

-Model how to make a prediction based on some of the words.

Guided Practice

-Try a whole class skimming and scanning of the text. Encourage students to whisper and then share afterwards which words “popped.”

-Use the technique in a guided reading group or ask literature circles to skim and scan before reading a chapter.

-With younger children use party store finds like witches’ fingers for a spark of little kid fun.

Reflecting

Ask students to tell how skimming and scanning helps them to make predictions.

Whisper Skim and Scan

Before Reading

Skim and Scan with your fingers and write 5 words that POP.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Make a prediction.

My prediction

During Reading

Read and look for your words.

After Reading

Share what your words mean and what you learned in a discussion .

Make a drawing to go with one of the words. Act out one of the words.

How does Whisper Skim and Scan help you understand what you read?