

# Easy Reading Activities to Engage Students



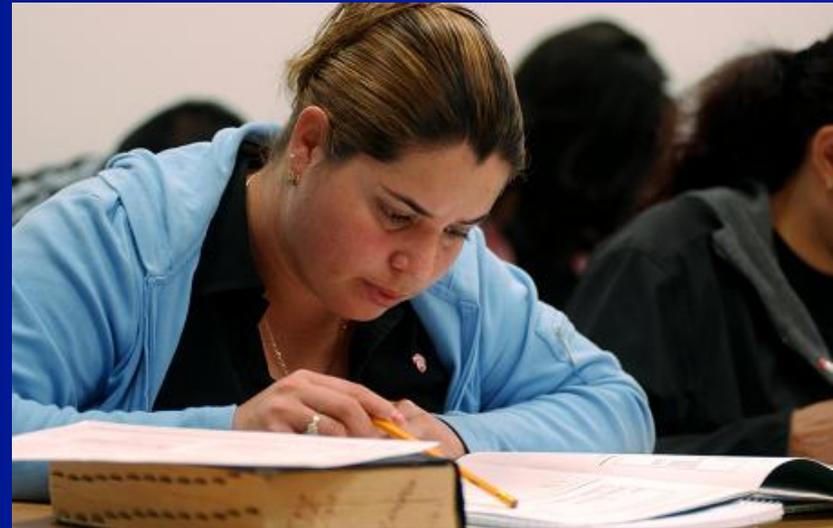
Serena Chu-Mraz

## 2 Truths and a Lie!

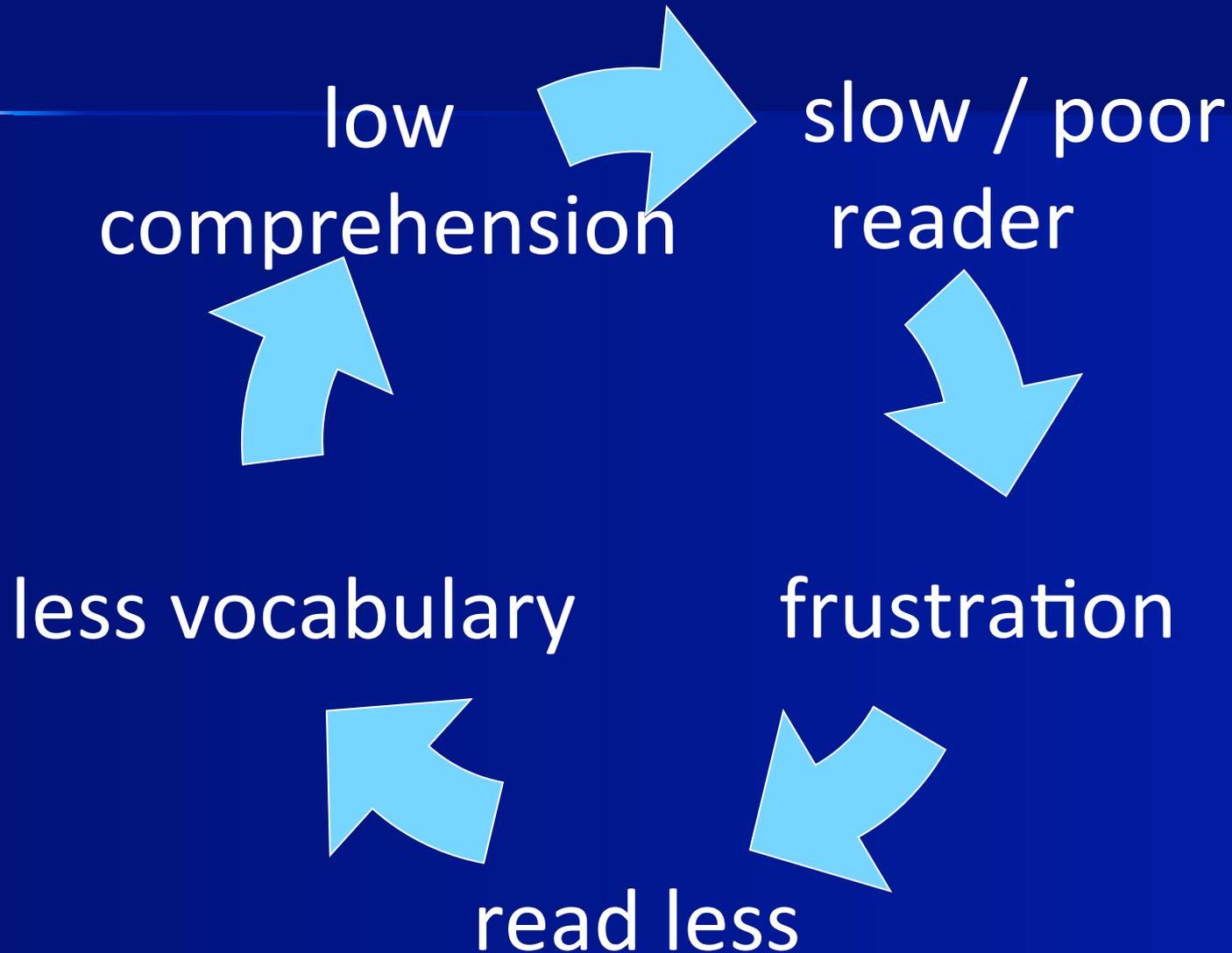
- 1.) I am going to Spain in 5 days.
- 2.) I lived in Mexico for two years.
- 3.) I hate spicy food.

# What are some problems students have with reading?

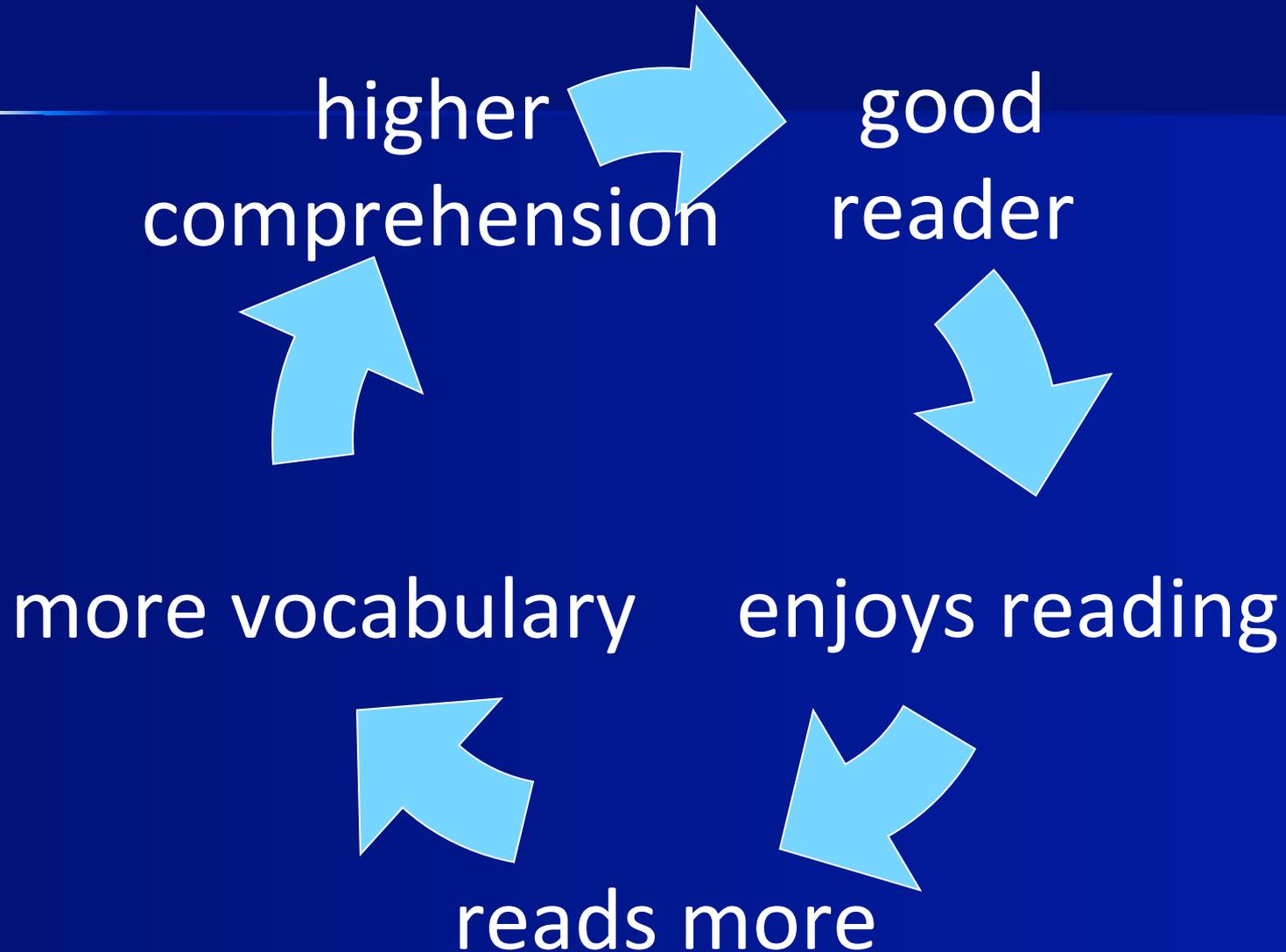
- Don't like reading
- Read too slowly
- Limited vocabulary
- Lack of comprehension
- Lack of critical thinking
- Don't read enough
- Don't connect to the reading



# Vicious Cycle of the Poor Reader

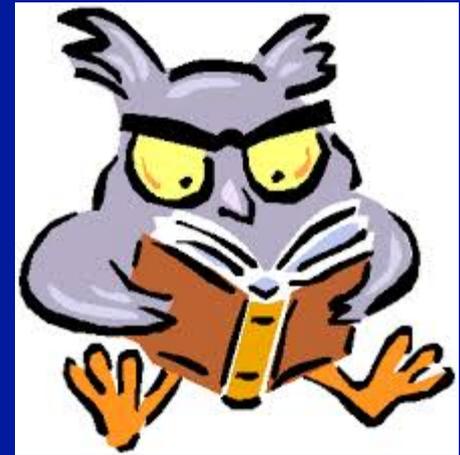


# Virtuous Cycle of the Good Reader



# Strategies to help struggling readers:

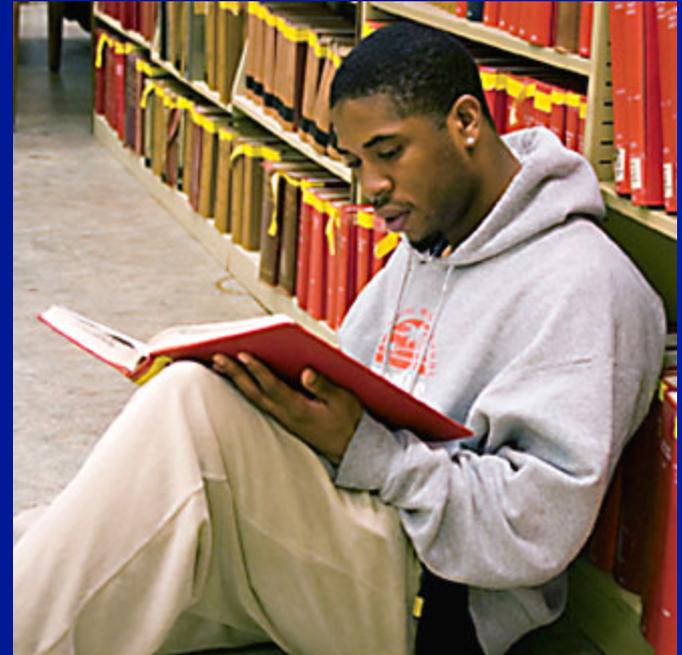
1. Connect reading to **prior knowledge**
2. Use **graphic organizers**
3. Do **close readings**
4. Encourage **critical thinking**



# 1. Connect Reading to Prior Knowledge

Pre-reading activities:

- KWL chart
- Give one, get one
- Mind-mapping
- Pre-reading quiz



# KWL Chart

K	W	L
What I know	What I want to know	What I've learned

What do you know  
How many of you have  
used a KWL chart  
before? Raise your  
hand!



# Give One, Get One



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

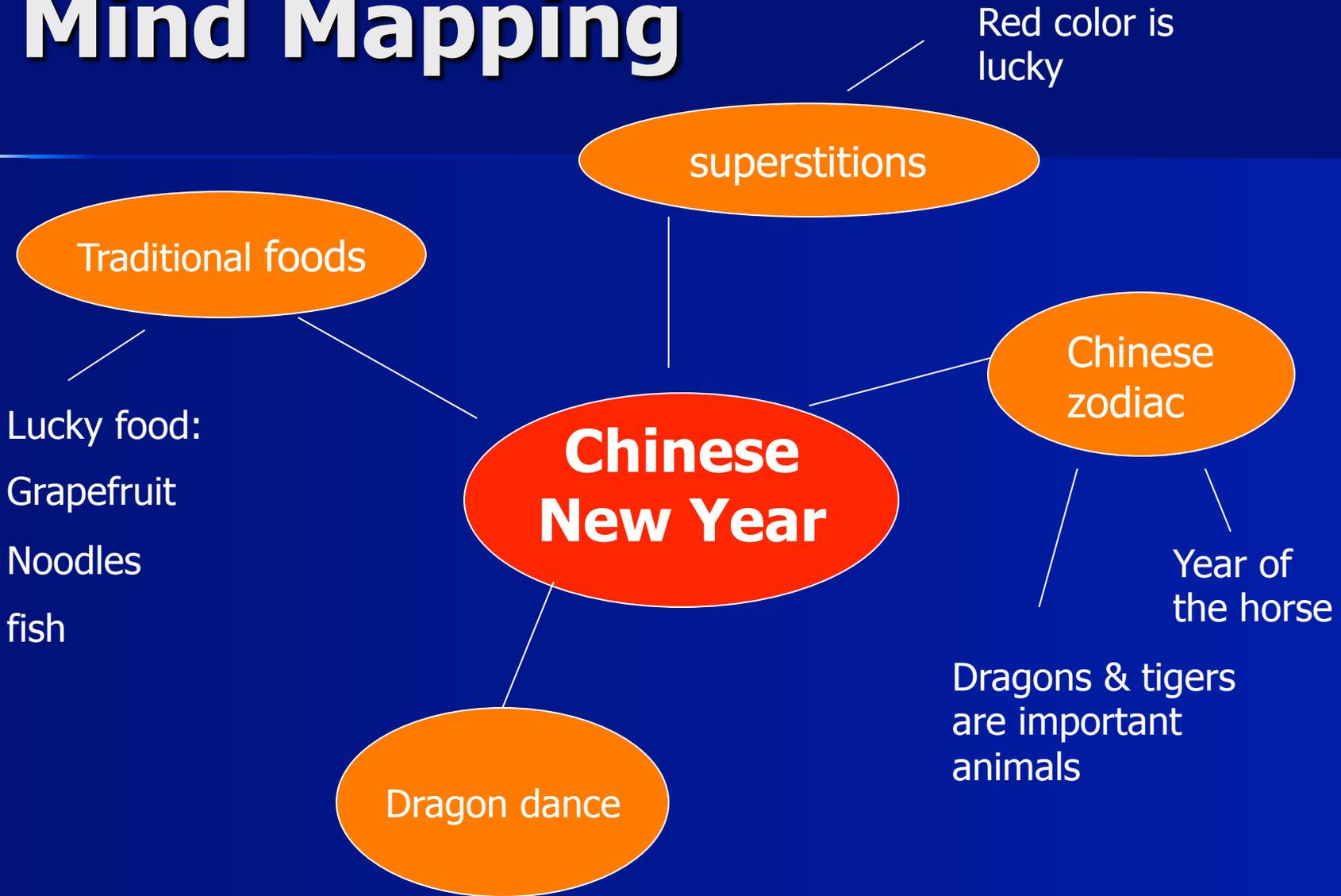
## Give One - Get One

Topic:

San Francisco

San Francisco has cable cars.	San Francisco is located in the state of California.	It is a peninsula.

# Mind Mapping



# Pre-reading quiz



Before reading		<b>Chinese New Year</b>	After reading	
Agree	Dis-agree		Agree	Dis-agree
		1. It is unlucky to cut your hair before Chinese new year.		
		2. You should clean your house before Chinese new year.		
		3. The panda bear is one of the animals in the Chinese zodiac.		
		4. Chinese people wear white during new year's celebrations.		
		5. "Lucky money" is given to young people in red envelopes during Chinese new year.		

# 2. Use Graphic Organizers

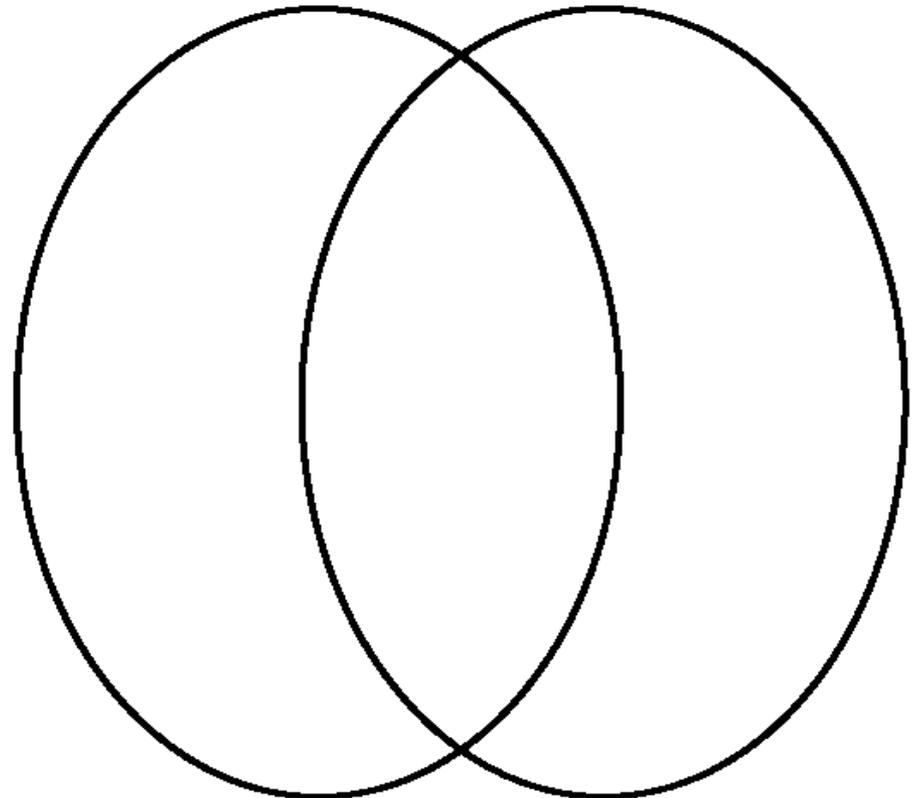
- Venn diagram
- 2-column chart
- 4-column chart
- Storyboard
- Vocabulary cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Venn Diagram

**Directions:** Analyze two categories that overlap. Similarities go in the middle shared section. Differences are listed in the outer areas.

1<sup>st</sup> Topic: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Topic: \_\_\_\_\_



**Children should be paid to attend school.**

**Yes**

**No**

**Conclusion:**

# Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

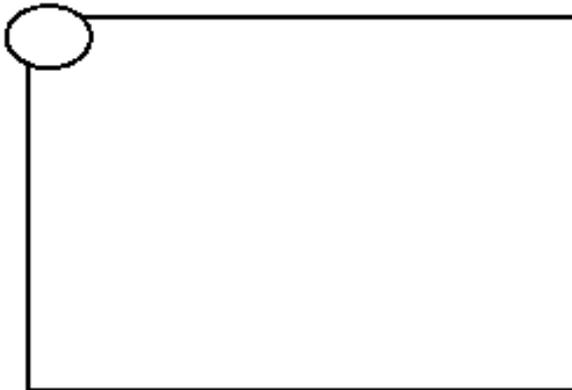
Main ideas	Key vocabulary	Important quotation	Comments/questions

# Storyboard



## Storyboard

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_



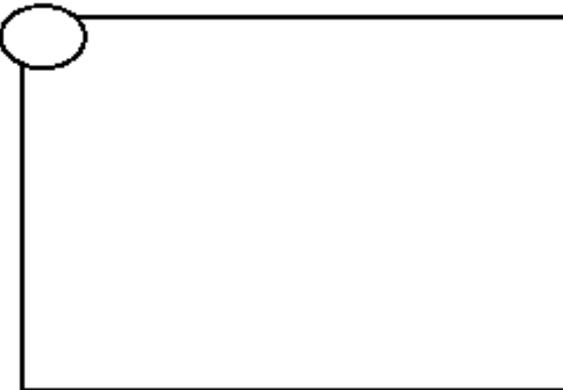
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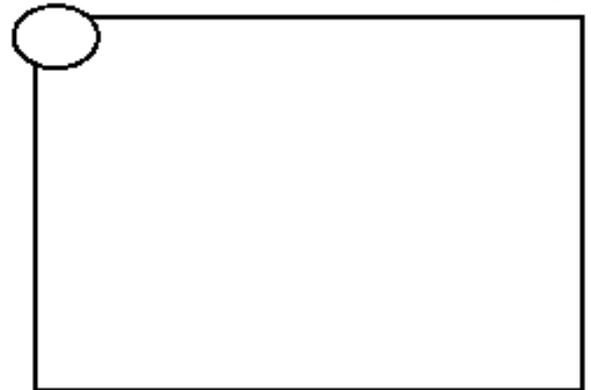
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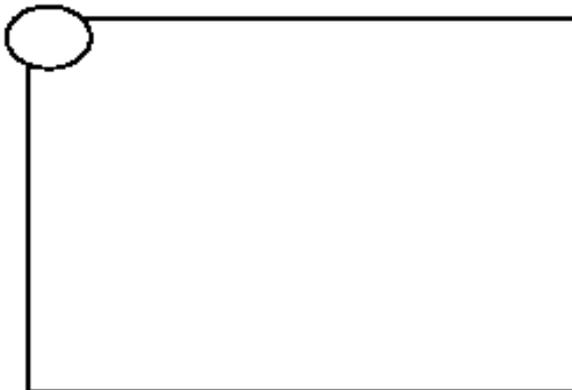
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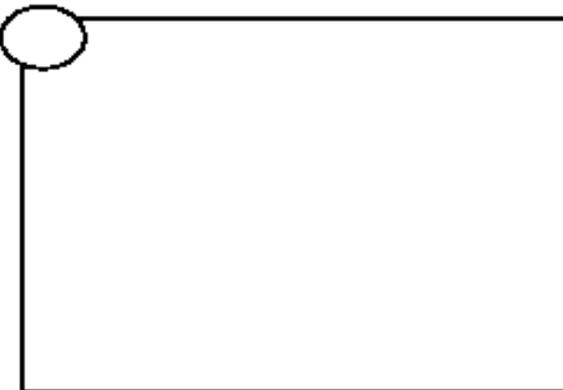
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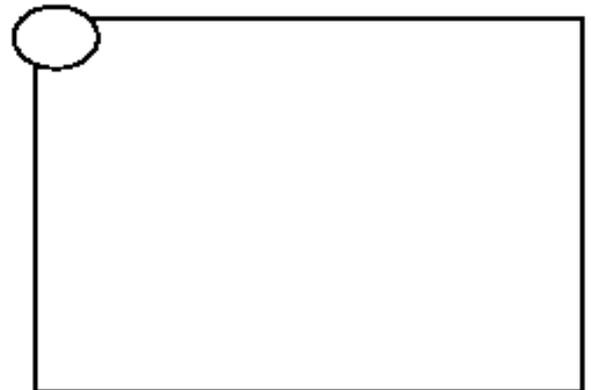
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# Using Flash Cards for vocabulary development:

Front of flash card:

pompous

# Back of vocab. flashcard:

Word: pompous

Adj.

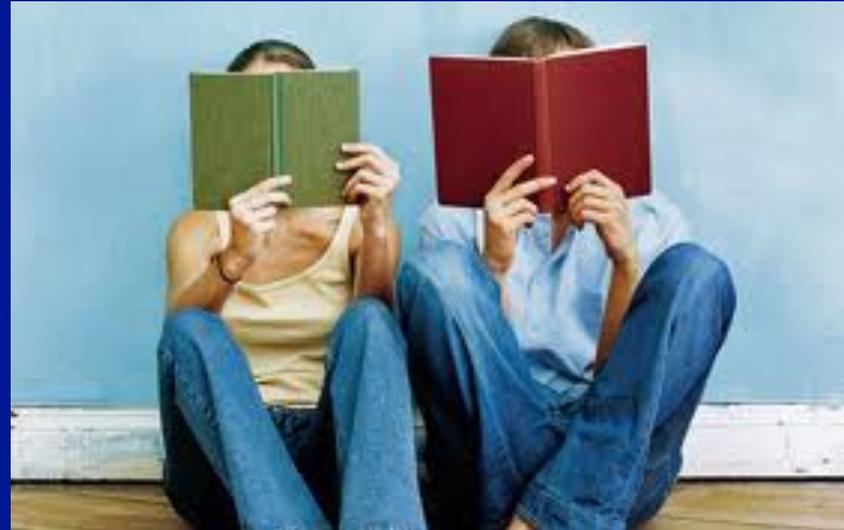
self-important,  
arrogant

My date last night  
thought he was  
amazing, but I  
found him to be a  
**pompous** jerk.



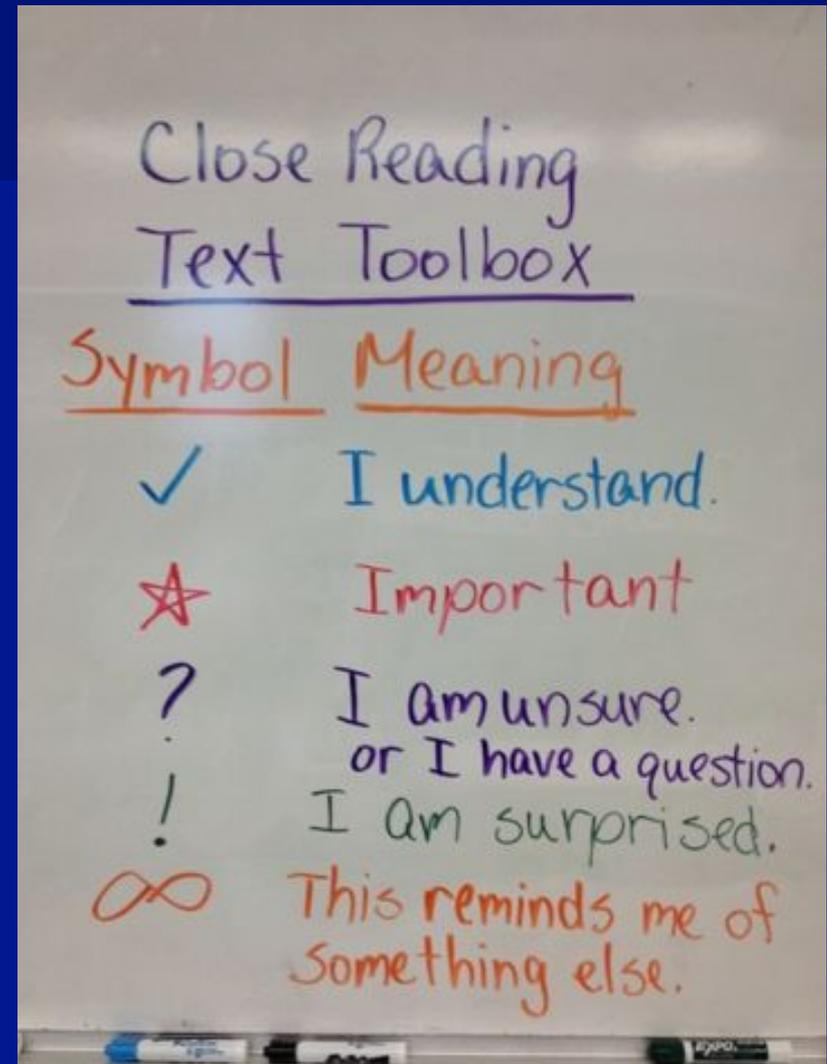
# 3. Close Reading

- Engaging with the text 3 times
- Think Aloud
- Annotation
- Reader's Bookmark



# First Read

- Students read with pencil in hand
- Circle vocabulary words
- Underline or star important points
- Use symbols to mark reading



# Second Read



- Teacher reads text out loud to model fluent reading
- Students follow along with their finger or pencil
- Discuss first impressions and notes

# Third Read

- Teacher models Think Aloud and annotation
- Students do Think Aloud and annotation in pairs



# Think Aloud



Chinese New Year is celebrated all over the world. In China, it's a time when families take holidays and get together. They gather at each other's homes for visits and meals, and often have a special feast on New Year's Eve.

Before the new year, it is a tradition to clean house to sweep away all the bad luck from the old year. Often, at midnight on New Year's Eve, people open all the doors and windows to let the old year leave.

# Think Aloud

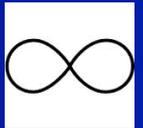
Chinese New Year is celebrated all over the world. In China, it's a time when families take holidays and get together. They gather at each other's homes for visits and meals, and often have a special feast on New Year's Eve.

*Large meal? What do they eat?*

! Before the new year, it is a tradition to clean house to sweep away all the bad luck from the old year. Often, at midnight on New Year's Eve, people open all the doors and windows to let the old year leave.

*The new year is a time to start fresh*

*My country also has traditions for New Year's*

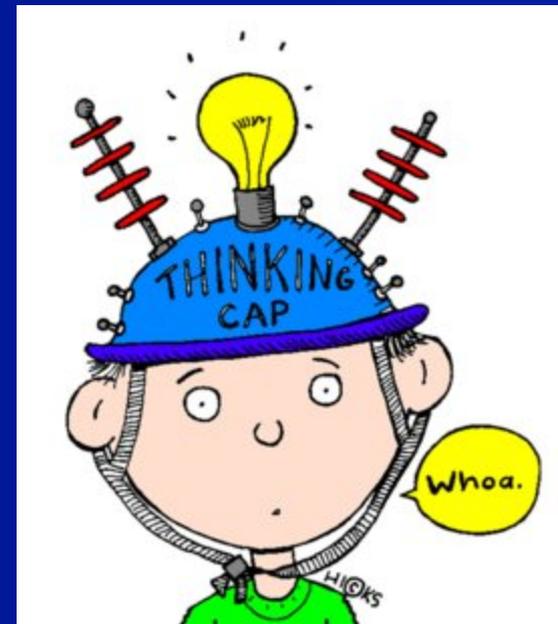


# Reader's Bookmark

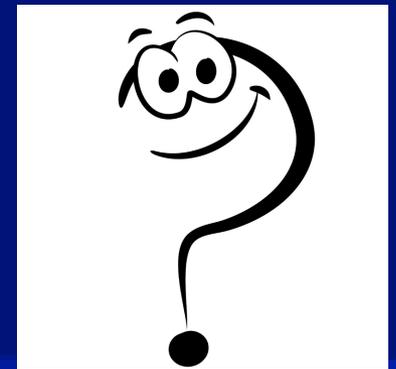
<b>Reader's Bookmark</b>	<b>Reader's Bookmark</b>	<b>Reader's Bookmark</b>
Vocabulary:	Vocabulary:	Vocabulary:
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
I think...	I think...	I think...
I wonder...	I wonder...	I wonder...
I notice...	I notice...	I notice...
This reminds me of...	This reminds me of...	This reminds me of...
This is confusing because...	This is confusing because...	This is confusing because...
I like this part because...	I like this part because...	I like this part because...
I think the character is feeling ____ because...	I think the character is feeling ____ because...	I think the character is feeling ____ because...
I think _____ will happen next because...	I think _____ will happen next because...	I think _____ will happen next because...

# 4. Encourage critical thinking

- Ask open-ended questions
- Inner-outer circles
- Four Corners Activity



# Ask open-ended questions

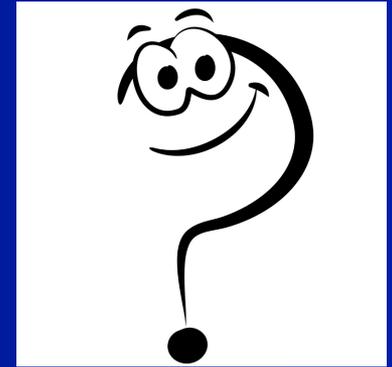


Questions should encourage students to **think deeply** about the text:

- Why did \_\_\_\_\_?
- What does \_\_\_\_\_ remind you of, and why?
- Do you admire the main character's actions? Why or why not?

# Ask follow-up questions to facilitate discussion

- What makes you say that?
- What happened in the reading that makes you say that?
- Do you agree with what \_\_\_\_\_ said? Why or why not?



# Inner-Outer Circles or Conversation Line

Students are  
actively learning



# Inner-Outer Circles or Conversation Line



*Possible discussion questions:*

- Which character in the book did you most identify with, and why?
- What was your favorite part of the book?
- What do you think will happen in the next chapter?
- Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not?

# Four Corners Activity

Strongly  
agree

Strongly  
disagree

There is very little racism in my country.

Agree

Disagree

# Four Corners Activity

Strongly  
agree

Strongly  
disagree

- Kids should be paid to attend school.
- Animal testing should be banned.
- The government should put an additional tax on soda to fight obesity.

Agree

Disagree

# Four Corners Activity

Strongly  
agree

Strongly  
disagree

- Let's try it! What do you think?

People who litter (throw trash on the ground) should have to pay a fine.

Agree

Disagree

# Four Corners Activity

Strongly  
agree

Strongly  
disagree

What are some other controversial sentences that you could use for the Four Corners activity?

Agree

Disagree

# Reflection

What are your thoughts, comments, and questions about today's webinar?



# Thank you!



(image: [www/examiner.com](http://www/examiner.com))

## Serena Chu-Mraz