Make It Real:
Strategies for Learning to Love
Informational Texts

Linda Hoyt

Strategies to Deepen Understanding:
Float the Learning on a Sea of Talk!
• I Remember
• Read Cover Remember Retell
• Say Something
• Sketch to Stretch
• Key Word

Expository Bookmark
• Look at the Pictures
• Look at the Title
• Examine headings
• Look at captions and bold type
• Make a picture in your mind
• Predict: Make smart guesses
• Think of I Wonder questions
• Skim
• Go back and really read
• Summarize in your head
• Make Sense!
• Chunk challenging words
• Connect to what you know

Recipe for Informational Literacy
By Linda Hoyt

Measure 2 heaping cups of curiosity
Add 1 caring teacher
Stir gently with interesting information
Allow to steep in student generated questions
Blend in time to read and time to write
Sprinkle generously with think alouds, reading
strategies and craft lessons for informational writing
Add a dash of hands-on experience
Mix thoroughly with small group instruction and
assessment
Whisk in a rich mix of tools for gaining meaning
Simmer in an atmosphere where information is
celebrated all day
Spread over a lifetime of reading and writing

The Egg
A female silkworm moth usually lays between
300 and 500 yellow eggs. Each egg is no bigger
than the head of a pin. She fastens them onto a
mulberry leaf one by one. She produces a special
glue-like liquid that makes the eggs stick to
anything they touch.

When the eggs hatch, tiny dark caterpillars
emerge. They immediately eat their eggshells.
Then, they begin to stuff themselves with the
mulberry leaves on which they were born.

I Remember!
Stop frequently and ask students to do mini-retells as
they move through a text.

Extend the learning from read alouds to guided
reading and then into independent reading by
providing students with sticky notes to use as “stop
signs.” They place their stop signs at intervals
through a text and then pause for an “I Remember”
each time they come to a sticky note.

Publications by Linda Hoyt
• Revisit, Reflect, Retell-Updated Edition: Strategies for Improving Reading
  Comprehension, Heinemann, 2009
• Mastering the Mechanics: Ready to Use Lessons For Modeled, Guided and
  Independent Editing, k/1; 2/3; 4/5 Editions, Scholastic, 2008 , 6/7 in
  development
• Interactive Read Aloud: Linking Standards, Comprehension and Fluency,
  k/1; 2/3,4/5 editions, Heinemann First Hand, 2006. (Grade 6/7 with Lynnette
  Brent Sandvold, 2009)
• Exploring Informational Texts: From Theory to Practice, Hoyt, Mooney,
  Parkes, Heinemann, 2003
• Make It Real: Strategies For Success With Informational Texts, Heinemann,
  2002
• Snapshots: Literacy Minilessons Up Close, Heinemann, 2001

Video Programs:
• Navigating Informational Texts: Easy and Explicit Strategies, Video Series,
  Hoyt, Heinemann, 2003
• Improving Comprehension Through Guided Reading, grades 3-6, BER
  Video Program, 2002
• Snapshots: The Video, Heinemann, 2001
• Comprehension Strategies for Struggling Students, Video Training
  Program, BER, 1999

Resources for children:
National Geographic, Language, Literacy and Vocabulary, 2006