The Warriner School Principles of Teaching

"We cannot change a child's prior attainment, but we can change their future."

The High-Five Reading Strategy

Purpose

The ability to read is a fundamental life skill. It is essential to us all if we are to participate fully in society and the workplace. Pupils with poor reading struggle to read independently, and so read less. As a result, they need our help! Without identification of their reading needs and targeted additional teaching, pupils who arrive in secondary school as poor readers are likely to continue to struggle. Reading is their passport to success.

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." Frederick Douglass.

What is the High-Five reading strategy?

The strategy is a guided reading strategy so that learners are supported when deconstructing text. The strategy encourages students to think deeper, make connections and build schemata. It uses pre, during and post reading activities to scaffold an effective use of text. The strategy shines a spotlight on text to make it "the beating heart of the lesson" (Myatt).

Activate: What background knowledge do learners already have on core features of the text? This can be the 'silent starter', encourages interleaving and knowledge retrieval, and begins to build connections.

Predict: Make predictions so that learners anticipate what might happen (Bailey). Predictions build connections and can be re-visited. Predictions also provide scope for retrieval, i.e. this is what happened in the last chapter/ paragraph/sentence so what could happen next? Predicting helps students make supported inferences.

Questioning: Retrieval questions build comprehension. Further, probing questions add depth of analysis.

Vocabulary: Identifying tier 2 and tier 3 vocabulary builds declarative and disciplinary knowledge. Tier 3 words are specific to a subject and useful in helping learners to talk, write and think like a scientist, geographer, artist, and so on.

Summarise: Translate the text into your own words or images so that you engage with the text. Summarising is like panning for gold - it helps you look for and locate the main points in every paragraph. Two to three bullet points per paragraph is a useful convention so that learners select carefully and distil the salient points.

Useful Tips

- You do not need to use all High-Five elements together – you can mix and match.

- Explicit reference to the strategy, its different elements and their purpose, is empowering for students.

- High-Five reading can be used to strongly support our curriculum intent-placing a high value on knowledge.

- Observe a colleague delivering the High-Five strategy.

- Look for shared, High-Five resources.

RESPONSIBLE - RESPECTFUL - READY