

## STRATEGIES

- ✦ **Myopic Readings:** When tackling complex texts, pull small chunks (a paragraph, few sentences, or even a single phrase) out to analyze together, then give students a separate small chunk to analyze in a small group, and build toward independent analysis. Students who did not understand the entire reading on their own will have context to apply and practice with the analysis methods you want them use.
- ✦ **Marking the Text:** Provide students with a variety of symbols and strategies to mark complex texts. The goal is to help them think while they read and wrestle with unknown meanings and complex ideas with support. Start by practicing together with a small sets of symbols/tools, then have students practice in small groups and individually. Build toward students having a bank of text marking options to choose from.
- ✦ **Pre-During-Post...Options, Options, Options:** Students should engage in meaningful Pre-Reading, During Reading, and Post-Reading activities, but not all students need to do the same activities. After introducing strategies, let students select which ones they wish to use with a particular text or vary the text while using the same strategies.
- ✦ **Literature Circles**
- ✦ **Writing Workshops**
- ✦ **Shared Inquiry:** Shared Inquiry is a Junior Great Books method of engaging with text and dialoguing about text. It is very powerful with students of all ages. The process can be able to any text, and the skills developed during Shared Inquiry cross all subject areas. The *Starting Off Strong* series is an affordable way for teachers and students to start using this process.

## SMALL BITES: ANCHOR, CHALLENGE, AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- ✦ **R.A.F.T. Writing**
- ✦ **Super Sentences or Obfuscations**
- ✦ **Revision Station:** Students can revise an original of their own, or select from teacher-provided texts. They select one small part of the text to revise with a specific goal—more description, stronger verbs, a specific verb tense, sentence length variety, no words repeated, etc.
- ✦ **Story Starters:** Provide a variety of first sentences to stories. Students add to the story for a set length of time, and then move to a different story. The next student

has to read the entire story so far and continue it. Students should put their name next to their section of the story.

-  **Found Poems:** Students select and rearrange words from a provided text to compose an original poem.
-  **25 Letters of the Alphabet:** Students draw a letter card. They write about a content-specific topic, in a specific format (teacher-select or student choice from a menu), without using the letter selected. This is a great exercise to build sentence construction and word choice skills.
-  **Independent Reading Stations:** These stations should ask students to do something while they read and/or after they read. A few ideas...
  - Fillable sentence frames
  - Select powerful quotes and reflect
  - Ask the author questions

## PROJECTS—INDEPENDENT STUDY



## RESOURCES

