

Stiger
READ 4043
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Magnet Summaries

Description:

A magnet summary helps the student identify key terms or concepts (magnet words) from their reading. Once the terms are identified the student organizes the important information into a summary. This strategy is used post reading.

Primary Focus: Vocabulary & Comprehension

Targeted Reading Level: Elementary – High School

Procedure:

1. Instruct students to read a short portion of their text assignment, looking for a key term or concept that the details in the passage seem to “stick” to.

-here you can use the analogy of how a magnet attracts metal a magnet word attract info to them.

2. Solicit possible magnet words (put on board/overhead/post-it notes)

3. Ask students to recall some of the important details from the passage that are connected to the magnet words.

4. Individually or in cooperative groups, students then generate a summary sentence using the magnet word and the supportive details.

Other ideas in using Magnet Summaries:

A magnet word can be placed on a 3X5 card and then surrounded by supporting detail. A reading assignment may be represented by 5-6 magnet words per 3X5 card. Thus a text summary would be developed from the 5-6 3X5 magnet cards.

References:

Buehl, Doug. (1997). *Using Teaching/Learning Activities to Develop Strategic Readers: Magnet Summaries*. <http://wilearns.state.wi.us/apps/default.asp?cid=45>