



## LITERACY APPROACH FOR SEPTEMBER LONGFELLOW MIDDLE SCHOOL By Pam Haber: Reading Specialist

### Six Steps of Explicit Strategy Instruction

Modeling doesn't stop after you've introduced a strategy. According to research, it takes students 8-10 weeks of explicit instruction before they internalize a reading strategy.

1. Teacher explains *what* the strategy consists of.
2. Teacher explains *why* this strategy is important.
3. Teacher explains *when* to use the strategy in actual reading (e.g., what to notice in a text that tips off the reader that this particular strategy should be used).
4. Teacher *models how* to perform the strategy in an actual context (e.g. by doing a think-aloud using a real text) while students observe.
5. Teacher *guides learner practice*. Teachers and students work through several increasingly challenging examples of the strategy together using authentic texts. Teacher gradually releases responsibility to the students, allowing them to do what they can on their own. The teacher intervenes only when support is needed.
6. Students *independently use* the strategy as they pursue their own reading and projects.

-from *Improving Comprehension with Think-aloud Strategies* by Jeffrey D. Wilhelm, pp. 13-14.

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### Comprehension is a PROCESS, not a PRODUCT

- We want more than students who can answer our questions at the end of a chapter.
- We want to create students who can internalize these strategies and apply them to all the reading situations they encounter in their lives

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### Strategy for the month: **Determining Importance**

Readers determine the most important ideas and themes in a text according to their purpose for reading. Students learn to use their conclusions about important ideas to focus their reading to exclude peripheral or unimportant details.

- Purpose is everything! Deciding what is important and what are peripheral flows from purpose.
- Why is it important for students to have a purpose for reading?
- When we read, are we always given a purpose?
- How is telling students what to look for different than helping them figure out how to create their own purpose for reading?