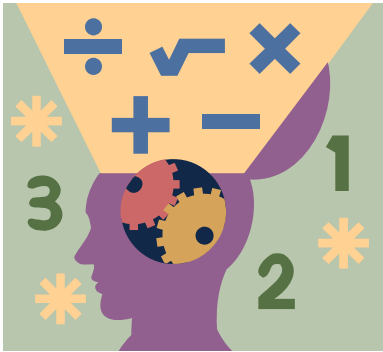


## Think-Aloud



The think-aloud strategy helps readers think about how they make meaning. Think-alouds help struggling readers learn to think about their reading and to monitor what they do and do not understand.

As students read, they pause occasionally to think aloud about connections they are making, images they are creating, problems with understanding that they are encountering, and ways they see of fixing up those problems.

1. Model thinking aloud.
  - It is helpful to model this strategy frequently.
2. Before you begin to think aloud, tell students that as you read a passage aloud, you will be stopping to think through what you are reading.
  - Have the students listen for when you predict, visualize, question, clarify, connect, etc. Remind them that skilled readers have this dialogue constantly with the text as they read.
3. As you read the text, stop frequently, to talk about how you are analyzing what happened in the text.
4. As you stop to think aloud give students a verbal or visual cue that you are switching from reading the text to thinking aloud.
5. Sometimes, write down your comments on a transparency.
  - When you are finished, have the students decide if you were predicting, commenting, noting confusion, etc.
6. After you have modeled thinking aloud a few times, have students try it on a portion of the text with a partner.
  - As one student does the think aloud the partner records the think aloud statements. When the think aloud is completed, the partner discusses with the reader what he/she did during the process.
  - If students are having a difficult time scaffold this practice by cueing them exactly where in the text you want them to stop and exactly what word, phrase, or sentence you want them to report on.
  - Ask them to read a particular section and describe the scene they see (visualizing) or what the text tells them about a character or the setting (clarifying), etc.
7. Provide ample opportunities for students to practice thinking aloud.
8. Have students reflect on how the think-aloud has changed their reading habits.