Using Graphic Organizers to Teach Reading Comprehension

**Objective:** To teach students reading comprehension skills.

**Setting and Materials:**

**Settings:** Small class sizes (10-15 students per group); resource special education classroom/after school remedial center

**Materials:**

- At least three grade/reading-level appropriate texts (between 1200 and 1600 words)
- Story Map (Appendix A)
- Teacher Prompting Card (Appendix B)
- Evaluation tool (Appendix C)

**Content Taught**

Students are taught relationships and specific vocabulary and concepts in content area using the graphic organizer.

**Teaching Procedures**

- In small class sizes of 10-15 students for 30-45 minutes per day across three days.
- Days 1-3: Students will read a short story. Teacher provides assistance with unknown words as needed.
- Day 1: Teacher will provide direct instruction and model using the Story Map from Appendix A for the first story.
- Day 2: Teacher will guide students collaboratively to complete the Story Map using the Teacher Prompting Card from Appendix B for the second story.
- Day 3: Students independently complete the Story Map for the third story.

**Evaluation**

Measure student mastery on Day 3: Independent Practice using the evaluation tool in Appendix B. Aim for 7/8 accuracy or higher on the main eight story components.

**Lesson Plan Based on:**

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IDEAs that Work
U.S. Office of Special Education Programs
Appendix A

(Vallecorsa & deBettencourt, 1997)
Appendix B

Sample Teacher Prompts

1. Who was the story about? (CHARACTER)
   Who were the main participants?

2. When did the story take place? (TIME)

3. Where did the story take place (SETTING/LOCALE/PLACE)

4. What did ____________ (important person) want (or want to do)?
   What was the main issue in the story? (GOAL/PROBLEM)

5. What caused __________ to set his/her goal?
   What caused __________'s problem? (STARTER EVENT)

6. How did __________ try to solve the problem? (EPISODE/ACTION)

7. Did __________ get what s/he wanted?
   Was the problem solved? Explain. (ENDING/OUTCOME)

8. How did __________ feel when ________ happened? (CHARACTER REACTION)

(Vallecorsa & deBettencourt, 1997)
Appendix C

Data Collection Form
Story Recall Task

Name _______________ Date _______________

Story # _______________ Total Score _______________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scoring Category</th>
<th>Included</th>
<th>Unusual or Elaborated</th>
<th>Category Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Main Character</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Locale/Setting/Place</td>
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<td>3. Time frame</td>
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<td>4. Starter Event</td>
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<td>5. Goal/Problem</td>
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<td>6. Action/Episode</td>
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<td>7. Ending/Outcome</td>
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<td>8. Character reactions</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bonus Categories</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Two or more goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Logical order</td>
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<td>3. More than one episode</td>
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*Goal = 7/8 on the Scoring Category section

Total =

(Vallecorsa & deBettencourt, 1997)