

Previewing a Read Aloud (Whole Class)

1. Prepare your materials:

* Choose the book you will read-aloud
* Copy both front and back covers
* Copy the inside jacket of the book (both beginning & end)
* Copy the first page or two of the book
* Create a “packet” of these materials (one for every two students)
* Place students in groups

2. Direct students to peruse their packets and begin to talk about what they think the book is about, start making predictions. Let students know they should look at all parts of the packet, including any illustrations, the copyright page, about the author, etc.

3. Students should: make predictions, ask questions, think about their own schema, make inferences, etc.

4. Bring the students back to the whole group. Have whole class discussions:

* + Discuss predictions; what led them to the predictions they made?
  + Ask what schema students possess that might help them with the book.
  + Start recording questions that come up as they discuss the book. This can become a chart that you continue with the class throughout the book!
  + Talk about illustrations if there are any.
  + Provide more information about the author/illustrator (now or later).
  + Discuss genre of the book (now or later).
  + Discuss any awards the book has won (now or later).

5. While this all takes time, students will be very curious about your read-aloud. Try to read-aloud a short part of the book at this point to engage your students right away!

6. Students can have their own questioning sheets in their reader’s notebooks but also keep a whole class sheet of questions that can be added to, answered, coded for inferred answers, questions that are never answered, etc. Add to this chart after every read-aloud session.

7. You can have students record individual responses in their reader’s notebook to the daily read-aloud. Listening to their sharing of responses may give you ideas for other mini-lessons you may want to hold with the class.