

Think-Aloud Dialogues

This is a collaborative reading strategy that takes the ideas, questions, revelations and reactions are done on paper when one annotates or completes a reading journal and turns them into an oral conversation with a partner who can agree, disagree, add on to the idea or contribute one of his/her own, and thus move the conversation forward.

Step 1: Partner A reads a small chunk of the assigned text (a line or two of a poem for example).

Step 2: Partner A initiates commentary by making an observation, asking a question, etc.

Step 3: Partner B responds to the text or to A's commentary.

Step 4: Partner B reads the next small chunk of the assigned text and initiates the commentary with an observation, question, etc.

Step 5: Partner A responds to this text or to B's commentary...

...and so on, until the assigned text is finished.

Readers and commentators can pose questions about anything that confuses, such as a vocabulary word, a complex sentence, a confusing idea, or call attention to powerful words, images or use of figurative language.

The key is for partners to respond directly to each other and build on each other's comments, creating a bridge between text and reader and reader and reader.