

Suggested Mini-Lessons for Literature Instruction

- Using sticky notes to identify questions, observations, and insights
- Posing questions about literature
- Writing reading responses to literature
- Mapping (webbing) key ideas from reading
- Using an idea web to focus literature discussion
- Oral reading of poems, short stories, sections from novels
- Book Talks about a new book in the class library (by the teacher or by a student)
- Ways to think about characters
- Ways to think about setting
- Ways to think about plot
- Noticing how authors use dialogue
- Narrators and ways to think about point of view
- Author studies: what authors have you enjoyed? Why?
- Author studies: background information about a particular author
- How authors use titles
- Looking at leads
- Prologues and epilogues
- Sequels, trilogies, and series books
- Ways to think about themes
- Publishing conventions
- Enjoying poems
- Sound and rhythm in poetry (alliteration, assonance, stresses, pauses, and meter)
- Poetic forms
- Figurative language (personification, simile, and metaphor)