

Sticky Notes and Literature: A Possible Mini-Lesson

Objective:

To give students a flexible strategy that they might use with any number of texts to help them keep track of their questions and insights as they read.

Procedures:

1. On chart paper, copy several paragraphs from the literature students are reading. Introduce the idea of using sticky notes to record questions, predictions, and insights as you read.
2. Read the text on chart paper aloud, stopping and writing questions, predictions, or observations and attaching them to the text in appropriate locations to demonstrate how the sticky notes might be used.
3. Discuss what you did and why. Invite questions from the students about the process.
4. Give each student a set of sticky notes. Ask them to read for five minutes, writing sticky notes as they like.
5. At the end of the reading period, have them share their notes with a partner, discussing what they noted and why.
6. Develop a discussion with the entire class about the experience. You might wish to explore some of the following questions:
 - Did they enjoy it and why or why not?
 - Did they find it difficult or easy?
 - Do they think it helped them as readers?
 - Were they surprised by things their partners noted and they didn't? What does that suggest?
7. Ask them to use their sticky notes to help them focus their literature discussions.
8. You may wish to continue the discussion and modeling of sticky notes over several class periods until you feel your students are comfortable with the technique.