The Basics

What? A method for students to process and gather their thoughts and learning

When? Before, during, and after students read a text and engage in discussion

Why? Encourages students to express their thoughts throughout the learning process

Student Outcomes

This strategy helps students refine their understanding of texts to meet reading expectations, prepare for and reflect on group conversations to meet speaking and listening expectations, brainstorm and draft ideas in preparation for writing about texts, and practice expressing their thoughts in writing to meet language expectations.

How to Implement

1. Before the beginning of the school year, make decisions about the reading log logistics:
    a. **What will be the reading log format?** (e.g., a composition notebook, a spiral bound notebook, a binder with paper, notebook paper stapled together, a digital reading log using an application)
    b. **How will students organize the contents of the reading log?** (e.g., Will there be a cover? Table of contents? Will the reading log have tabbed sections? Will students paste documents into the reading log and manipulate the pages to make them interactive? How will students mark each entry in the reading log (i.e., with a date or a specific heading)? Will students start each new entry on a new page or include entries continuously? Will they use the front and backs of pages?)
    c. **What classroom routines are needed for the reading log?** (e.g., Where will reading logs be stored? How will students access them? Will they be collected and graded? If so, how will they be graded?)
2. Develop procedures for each part of the logistics to share with students.
3. At the beginning of the school year, teach and practice the procedures with students to ensure they understand the expectations for the reading log and the process becomes routine.
4. To use the reading log, select or create a question, prompt, or task (written or visual).
5. Direct students to follow the established classroom procedures to capture their thinking in their reading log.

Resources for Additional Information

- Video of introduction and set-up for the interactive notebook for students and teachers
- Video of planning and setting up interactive notebooks for teachers
- Video of academic journal set up for students
- Video of setting up a reading LAB book for students