

Visualizing

What: *Visualizing* is a strategy that helps readers understand concepts and relationships that they cannot yet articulate.

Why: Often students who are struggling with text can get a vague notion of a concept of relationship even if they cannot articulate it. By teaching students to process information through visualization, teachers can help them to better understand the text.

How: Select a text/passage that can be read and processed within 15-20 minutes.

1. *Activate Prior Knowledge:* After reading the topic of the text/passage, ask students what they picture in their mind.
2. *Set Purpose:* Ask students what they think they are going to learn.
3. *Read:*
 - § Distribute post-its notes to students.
 - § Tell students to read along as the teacher reads aloud the first paragraph of the text.
 - § Stop at the end of the first paragraph. Have students draw an image of what was just read on a post-it.
 - § Instruct the students to return to the text and again read along as the teacher reads aloud. Extend the amount of text read before stopping for a second time, making certain that the stop is not at the end of a paragraph. Instruct students to draw an image of what was read in the second reading on a second post-it.
 - § Repeat the process for a third time, extending the amount of text read.
4. *Summing It Up:* Direct the students to line up the three images. They are to write the topic of the text read, then articulate each image drawn. See the *Summing It Up* strategy for more information.

When: Use the *Visualizing* strategy on text such as narratives to help students get their foothold into time and place or when first introduced to a new concept.