

Reading Strategy: Say Something

Defining the Strategy

The purpose of “Say Something” is to help students comprehend what they are reading as they predict, question, clarify, connect, or comment. Telling students to “say something” about the text, or giving them specific types of things that they can say, keep students interacting with the text. From that interaction, comes meaning.

Putting the Strategy to Work

1. *Model the strategy.* Demonstrate “Say Something” to the students. Based on the independent reading material that you’ve read, make several comments—from things you were confused by or wondered about to words that were unfamiliar to you to connections that you made between the text and something in your own world.
2. *Explain the procedure to students.* This activity can be done with partners, small groups, or as a whole group. Decide which you will do; then, go over the rules below. You can write these on the board if you think it will help. Tell students that when they “say something” they must identify an unfamiliar vocabulary term, make a prediction, ask a question, clarify something they misunderstood, make a connection, or make a comment. Students can use the sentence starters included with the reading logs in their folders to help them find something to say.

Rules for Say Something

1. Decide who will say something first.
2. When you say something, do one or more of the following:
 - Identify an unfamiliar vocabulary term
 - Make a prediction
 - Ask a question
 - Clarify something you misunderstood
 - Make a connection
 - Make a comment
3. If you can’t do at least one of those five things, then you need to reread.

3. *Perform the task.* Following the rules above, each student should say something about the text that they have read. The other students’ job is to respond or offer feedback to what each student says. After each student has said something, open the floor for discussion.