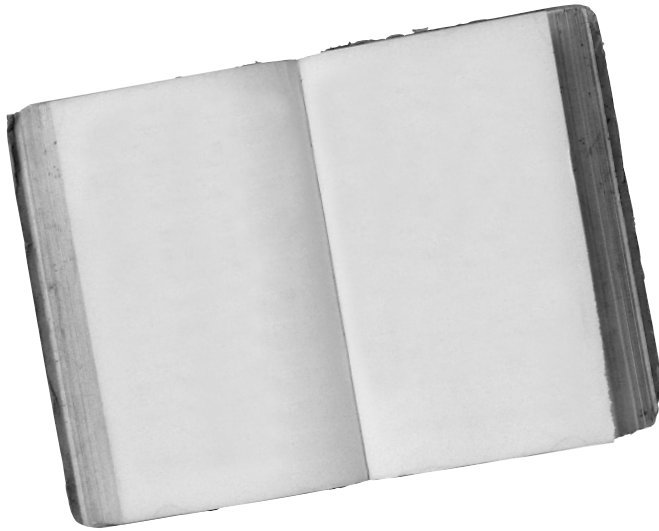


Language Arts, Reading

Learning Project 3

Reading Stories



This Learning Project deals with fiction. It is an excerpt from Willa Cather's novel, *My Antonia*, written in 1918. In the Practice GED Test, the focus question asks "What is the relationship between Jim and Antonia?" The passage and following questions will be exploring the answers to that question. The first Reading Inquiry Activity (3-1) focuses on the during reading strategy of monitoring to answer the question used by the GED as the passage title.

As in all of the passage reading strategies, steps 1 and 2 in the passage reading template encourages the reader to slow the reading process down. Step 1 asks them just to look over the passage, while step 2 asks pre-reading strategy questions.

1. Preview the Passage
2. Activate/Build from Prior Knowledge
3. Consider/Build Interest
4. Set a Purpose

The idea is to get the learners to start thinking about what they will read, and not try to read word for word to answer questions. Once they do read the passage, they can read it aloud and take parts with the dialogue. The technique/activity for the during reading skill of monitoring is introduced in step 3.

The Inquiry Activities are arranged from the easier to the more difficult questions. In the GED test, questions 1-3 are from the beginning of the passage; questions 4 and 5 cover the middle of the passage, and the final questions are from the end of the passage.

Inquiry Activity 3-2 asks the learner to draw a conclusion. The Inquiry Activity also makes a connection to IA 2-3 where the learner was also asked to draw a conclusion, so that the learner can transfer the skill practiced there to this new passage and question.

Making inferences comes back into consideration in Inquiry Activity 3-3. The skill was initially introduced in Inquiry Activity 2-2. The GED Test asks a number of inference questions.

Inquiry Activity 3-4 uses the predicting strategy, previously used with reading a passage, to answer a question. *GED as Project* tries to make explicit the process learners can use to answer the questions, and this Inquiry Activity again helps learners use previously learned skills in new situations. It helps the learners think about how they go about answering a question in addition to getting the right answer.