

Sketch-to-Stretch

Targeted Standards:

W.K.2 – Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

W.1.2 – Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.

W.2.2 – Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.

Sketch-to-Stretch is an instructional strategy (Harste, Short, & Burke, 1988), where students draw quick sketches to stretch their thinking and understanding of concepts. This technique can be used in a variety of ways.

Procedure:

1. Read or listen to a text or chunk of text.
2. Tell students to think about what they read. Think about questions and ideas they have about the text.
3. Students should sketch those ideas.

Variations:

- As a pre-reading activity, Sketch-to-Stretch is a strategy that can help students connect with prior knowledge. Students sketch ideas that show what they know about a topic featured in an upcoming selection.
- Invite students to write captions (words, phrases, or sentences) for sketches.
- When students work in small groups, Sketch-to-Stretch can be used to illustrate a series of events. For example, each person in a group sketches a different phase in the life cycle of a monarch butterfly.
- Put all the sketches in a booklet or on display so that students can examine all of them for new insights.
- If a text has few, none, or very poor illustrations, it may not be necessary to tell the readers to put away their texts before sketching. In fact leaving the text open in such cases encourages readers to reread as they devise their sketches.
- With content materials, give readers copies of a passage minus the pictures, drawings, graphs. Then ask them to sketch. Readers can then compare their sketches with one another and the author.

Attachment/Resources:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHohm42Vg5U> – Video - Teacher uses sketch to stretch while students listen to a read aloud.

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson229/sketch.pdf

Sketch to Stretch template

http://www.scholastic.com/content/collateral_resources/pdf/11/0545296811_e022.pdf

Comprehension Lesson for nonfiction

Reference/Research:

Short, K. G., & Harste, J. C. (1996). *Creating classrooms for authors and inquirers* (2nd ed.). Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.