

Brief Focus Lesson

Comprehension: Make a Picture or Mental Image
for Grade 1

Text: *Koala Lou* by Mem Fox

CAFE Goal	Comprehension
CAFE Strategy	Make a Picture or Mental Image
Observe/Relate (1 – 2 min.)	<p>When I was younger, my grandfather used to read books to me. One day, he read me a fairy tale without showing the pictures. I said, “Grandpa, I want to see the pictures.”</p> <p>Grandpa explained, “You don’t really need to see the pictures. You can make pictures in your mind. It is a lot of fun! After you make a picture in your mind, you can compare it to the one in the book. The pictures in your mind will help you remember the story, too!”</p> <p>Grandpa was right. He taught me the importance of making pictures in my mind when I read. Now that I am grown-up, I still use that strategy.</p>
Teach and Reinforce (2 – 3 min.)	<p>Establish purpose—Today we are learning to make a picture or mental image.</p> <p>Create urgency—We are learning to make a picture or mental image because it helps us understand what we read. The pictures we make in our minds make it easier to remember the text.</p> <p>Explicit teacher modeling—When I read <i>Koala Lou</i> by Mem Fox, I will make pictures in my mind. Before I begin, I will think about I already know about koalas. I have seen koalas in the zoo and read other books about them. I know how cute and furry they are. I’ll use what I already know about koalas, along with details from the text, to make pictures in my mind. We can use this strategy with any book.</p> <p><i>Read to page 5 and say, “The writer says that Koala Lou is soft and round and that everyone loves her.” On chart paper, write</i></p>

"In my mind, I see _____." *Read the prompt aloud while placing your index finger on your temple. Explain, "I'm pointing to my brain because I see the picture in my mind. I remember the details that the writer gave about Koala Lou. Using this same gesture, say "In my mind, I see a koala with a face as round as a circle. If I touched her face, it would feel very soft. Since everyone loves her, she must be very sweet." Make a quick sketch of a furry round koala's smiling face and pretend to stroke it if you wish.*

Continue reading to page 7. Point to your temple and say, "In my mind, I see Koala Lou's mother. I can see her laughing and shaking her head like this (do the actions). Read page 8 and say: "In my mind, I see Koala Lou doing many things. She is stretching out her arms (stretch your arms). She is relaxed, sitting in a tree (pretend to lounge on a tree), and she is walking down the road and doing her best to be brave (take a few steps with your head held high). Wow! In my mind, I can see that Koala Lou is a very busy girl!" Continue reading to page 12 before giving children the chance to practice on their own.

Practice
(2 – 3 min.)

Koala Lou is very busy, isn't she? I showed you how I make pictures of her in my mind when I read this book. I want you to have fun just like I did. Listen as I read what Koala Lou does to get ready for the Bush Olympics on page 14 (*Read*). Then ask, "What did you see Koala Lou doing in your mind? Tell a classmate one thing that you saw Koala Lou doing in your mind and how the details in the story helped you. Start with **In my mind, I see _____**. Point to your brain to show that you see the picture in your mind."

(After the read aloud, share the illustrator's picture of Koala Lou on page 14 so that students can compare their mental images with it. Remind them that each reader's mental images are different. Complete the read-aloud at another time.)

Encourage and Plan
(1 – 2 min.)

Whenever you read, make pictures in your mind. It will help you understand the text better. Pay attention to the text. Think about the details and what you already know. Then use those details to make a picture in your mind. The pictures you make will help you understand and remember the story better. Who will use the strategy of Make a Picture or Mental Image today?

**Common Core
Alignment**

Most strategies are applicable to all grade levels. Make a Picture or Mental Image aligns with Standard RL.1.7 on our [Grade 1 CAFE Menu](#) or [CCSS Grade Level Matrix](#).