

Brief Focus Lesson

Comprehension: Make a Picture or Mental Image for Grade 4

Text: *Cats* by Seymour Simon

CAFE Goal	Comprehension
CAFE Strategy	Make a Picture or Mental Image
Observe/Relate (1 – 2 min.)	<p>What do you know about making a mental image? Let me explain how I make one. Recently, my friend adopted a beautiful kitten from an animal shelter. She sent me an email telling me all about her new kitten that she named Boots. She explained that Boots is a great name for the kitten because his feet are all white.</p> <p>Since her camera was broken, she couldn't send me a picture. But based on her description of Boots as a playful kitten with sleek black fur, white paws, and shiny green eyes, I was able to form a mental image in my mind. I didn't need a photograph. Thanks to my friend's detailed description, I could really see Boots in my mind. I imagined a handsome black kitten with white paws playing with a plastic ball. I could almost see his green eyes staring back at me. Even though I didn't have a photo of Boots, I made my own picture in my mind of him! Now I can't wait to meet Boots in person.</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 the strategy of Make a Picture or Mental Image because it helps us to understand the text better. Creating pictures in our minds enables us to understand and remember our reading better.</p> <p>Explicit teacher modeling—I'd like to share part of an interesting book titled <i>Cats</i> by Seymour Simon. This is a nonfiction book; you can use the strategy of make a picture or mental image when you read nonfiction or fiction. (<i>Since the pages are not numbered, you might want to lightly pencil in the numbers for easy reference</i>).</p> <p>I know that all of you have seen pictures of cats; some of you might even have a pet cat at home. Think about what you already know about cats and form a picture in your mind. In the text, the author might describe a picture like the one you have formed. Whether you have a cat at home or</p>

	<p>not, you will be able to form some very specific pictures of cats in your mind when you hear some of the descriptions from this book. Listen as I read part of the text and tell you about the pictures that I form in my mind. <i>Begin reading page 13 about the cat’s whiskers. Say, “Wow! I guess that I never noticed that cats have whiskers on their chins or on the back of their legs. Using the details in the text, I can make a picture in my mind of a cat’s whiskers on the different parts of its body. Then read the second paragraph and comment “when the author tells how cats know when food is stale, I can imagine a cat smelling its food and turning away without eating it. Since my mom has a cat, I have seen firsthand how cats love catnip. Her cat rolls around after eating catnip just as the author describes. After reading paragraph 3, explain “Now I have a mental picture of a dog begging for table food, and another of a cat just walking away because it is a much pickier eater. How different they are!”</i></p>
<p>Practice (2 – 3 min.)</p>	<p>Writers often use vivid description so that readers can create clear pictures in their minds. Now you will share the mental images you create when you hear more information from <i>Cats</i>. <i>(Distribute whiteboards or clipboards with drawing paper for the next part of the lesson). Share page 19 which talks about the cat’s body language. State “As you listen to this section of the text that describes the cat’s body language, sketch or describe in words what you see in your mind.” Call on a few volunteers to share their ideas. Ask them which details from the text help them to create their mental images. Then read paragraphs 2-3 and repeat the process.</i></p>
<p>Encourage and Plan (1 – 2 min.)</p>	<p>We just learned how making a picture or mental image when we read increases our understanding. Whenever you read, using the strategy of Make a Picture or Mental Image will make the text come alive for you. Creating those important pictures in your mind will help you to remember what you have read.</p>
<p>Common Core Alignment</p>	<p>Most strategies are applicable to all grade levels. Make a Picture or Mental Image aligns with Standard RL.4.7 on our Grade 4 CAFÉ Menu or CCSS Grade Level Matrix.</p>