



Ready Reference Form

Goal: Accuracy		Strategy: Use the Picture . . . Do the Words and Pictures Match?
Definition	Using illustrations, photos, graphs, maps, and charts to help gain meaning from text and confirm that the words being read make sense.	
Why Children Need This Strategy	This is one of the first stages of prereading. Illustrations can provide hints to help students decode a word. Using the pictures also prepares students for the accuracy strategy of Cross Checking, as well as for using charts, graphs, photos, and captions when reading nonfiction texts in later years.	
Secret to Success	Knowing that using the pictures within text is a viable and appropriate strategy for decoding words and gaining meaning, not “cheating.”	
How We Teach It	<p>Starting the first day of school we teach the lesson Three Ways to Read a Book to our youngest readers, or ELL students who are not yet reading or are just beginning to read. We want to ground students with the knowledge that oftentimes photos or illustrations are a vital part of the reading experience and can help us figure out a word or words or gain meaning from the text. We model reading the pictures.</p> <p>Beginning reading books often have just a few words on a page, and the illustrations can give clear support for figuring out the words.</p> <p>Reading pictures, which includes graphs, maps, charts, and their captions, is a very powerful nonfiction reading strategy. Using pictures is also a strategy for more advanced students that will support those reading different curricular texts. Each time we read a book, we spend time modeling how we look at pictures, maps, and graphs. We talk about our thinking so students can hear our processing. We also model stopping while we read to look at the pictures to help us gain information.</p>	
Troubleshooting	<p>Use the Picture is an accuracy strategy on the CAFE Menu, but it also is a beginning comprehension strategy, sending a clear message for our beginning readers and English language learners that we are always thinking about meaning when we look at any text.</p> <p>Use the Picture is required before we can ask students to try the powerful strategy Cross Checking.</p>	