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that you let me know
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khaag@liketowrite.com



Sincerely,
Karen Haag

I hope I can help you in some small way.
Please feel free to email with questions 😊

Use Symbols to Remember Meanings

One of my favorite formative assessments is drawing. I ask students to draw a symbol to represent a vocabulary word – usually a concept word considered of major importance in our curriculum.

I wear a charm bracelet the day I introduce the idea. After I teach a lesson about a concept word, I show the bracelet and ask them to tell me what meaning they think I associate with the charms.

- Statue of Liberty
- piano
- picture of my grandmother

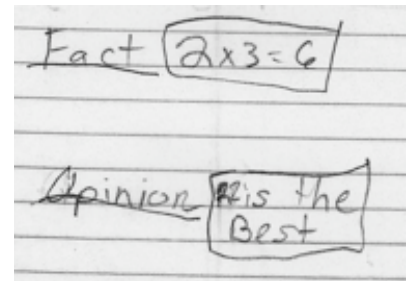
Then I show pictures of symbols used in advertising. First we recognize and name them. Then we talk about what meaning we attach to the symbols.

- Nike swoosh
- McDonald's M

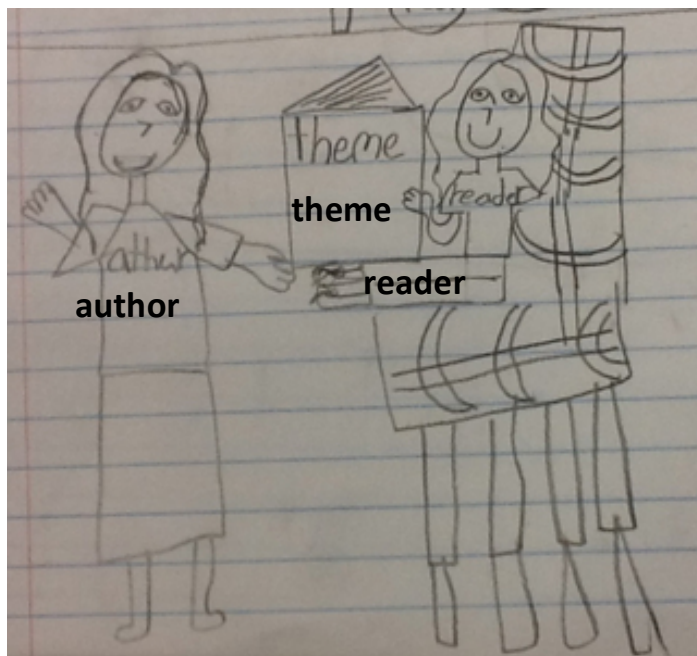
Then, I ask the students to draw a symbol for the word we just studied. It may be a word like

- theme
- author's purpose
- paragraph
- infer and observe
- evaporation
- fact and opinion
- economics

As soon as someone has an idea about what image to draw, I hand them a Vis-à-vis and ask them to draw their symbol on the whiteboard big enough for all to see. They explain the thinking behind the graphic. The others stare in wonder because, at first, most of my students have no idea what I'm talking about! Over time, they improve at drawing symbols to represent vocabulary words. The visual helps them store the words in their brains in a place where they can retrieve them.



theme in Reader's Notebooks



observe & infer On the SmartBoard

