Zaid and the Gigantic Cloud

Reading Strategies Book Study

A book study that reinforces effective reading strategies such as:
- Predictions
- Mental Images
- Inference
- Making Connections
- Summarizing
- Identifying Story Elements

Predictions

Using hints from the story and our own experience, we can predict (or guess) what will happen next in a story. Stop reading the book when you get to this part:

" There was something shiny next to the bird, so Zaid gently pushed the leaves aside. Oh no! It was an empty soda can, and the poor wren's foot was stuck in the small aluminum tab."

Predict how the story will end.

My prediction is _____

_____

_____

I think my prediction is correct because ____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Mental Images

Creating mental images helps readers really feel and picture the important parts of a story. Choose a part of the story that sticks out in your mind. In the box below, draw your mental image of that part in the book.

Draw your mental image below:

How does this mental image make you feel?

_____

_____

_____

Inferring the Meaning of Words

When we read difficult words, we can guess their meaning using hints and clues from the text. Read the sentences below, and infer the meaning of the bolded words. Then explain what helped you guess the meaning of the difficult word.

Example: "The dried leaves made **crackling** sounds beneath his boots."
Crackling means: a kind of crunching sound. Hints that helped: I used the word "leaves", and imagined the kind of sound they make under my shoes.

1. "There was a small grey cloud **hovering** over his head. He frowned and the cloud darkened."

Hovering means:

_____

Hints that helped:

_____

_____

2. "He inched closer and noticed a small, brown wren **fumbling** around the base of the bushes."

Fumbling means:

_____

Hints that helped:

_____

_____

3. "The bus came **rumbling** down the street to pick the students up from the bus stop."

Rumbling means:

_____

Hints that helped:

_____

_____

4. "Zaid hurried to get off, but the aisle of the bus filled up with kids **hustling** and bustling, grabbing backpacks and lunchboxes, and blocking the way!"

Hustling means:

_____

Hints that helped:

_____

_____

5. "'Oh no!' Zaid **moaned** as he covered face, 'Look at all the mistakes I made.'"

Moaned means:

_____

Hints that helped:

_____

_____

Making Connections

We understand texts better when we make connections to them. Making a connection means that the text reminds you of something you already know, or makes you think about something. Read Zaid and the Gigantic Cloud and fill in the graphic organizer below.

Zaid and the Gigantic Cloud reminds me of....

Myself	Other Texts	The World

Summarizing

Summarizing a story means you recall the most important events and details in the order they happened. After reading Zaid and the Gigantic Cloud, summarize it below.

Beginning
(How does the story begin? Who is it about?)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Middle
(What is the problem?)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

End
(What is the solution?)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Bonus What do you think the moral of this story is? What is the author trying to tell us?

_____
_____
_____

Story Map

All stories have certain elements known as setting, characters, problems and solutions. Record the story elements of Zaid and the Gigantic Cloud below.

Main Setting

Characters

Problem

Solution