

## Instructional Strategies

### Literacy Paint Chips

Gather paint chip strips from your local hardware store and start being creative! Bringing color into your lessons will brighten everyone's day. Three box strips work perfectly for brainstorming a summary of a story. Use the three boxes for beginning, middle, and end of the story. Four box strips are ideal for main idea and supporting details or for text-dependent analysis. Five box strips are perfect for better word choice. Write the word that you want replaced in the first box and then have students find synonyms for that word to complete the strip.

[Conversations in Literacy](#)

[Colorful & Cool Paint Chip Activities](#)

### Frustration Model

Use a [Frustration Model](#) graphic organizer to help students learn new words and concepts. Students define the word in their own terms and list facts, characteristics, examples, and non-examples. This works with individual students, pairs, or small groups. Make sure you take the time to model the strategy before asking students to complete one on their own!

## Assessment Strategies

### Cubing

Write a question on each side of a cube. Have students roll the cube and respond. The questions can relate to a story that you read together in class.

#### *How can you use Cubing?*

Parts of a book  
Story elements  
Reading elements  
Vocabulary  
Text Dependent Analysis

[Five Ways to Use Cubing](#)

### Mid-Unit Conversations

It is important to identify if, how, and why students are struggling before a formal evaluation. At the mid-point of a unit, have all students participate in a classwide activity. This will allow you to speak to individual students to review, note trouble spots, and listen to questions or problems.



## Classroom / Time Management Strategies

### Retreat Space

Noise, lights, and commotion in your classroom can sometimes be overwhelming for students, even in the intermediate grades. Construct a quiet corner that provides a retreat for students who need a few moments to regroup. Discuss the purpose of this space and define the rules and guidelines of the space. Include some of the following in your retreat space:

- Calming colors, like shades of blue and/or green
- Comfortable furniture and mood lighting
- Coloring materials
- Music - classical or other calming music
- Fidget Tools Box - Stress balls, calming bottles, small puzzles, Thera-bands, pipe cleaners, noise-canceling headphones
- Sunglasses to escape from bright light