



Say Something

Purpose

Say Something is a paired reading strategy developed by Egawa and Harste (2001) for constructing meaning from text-based information. Through structured exchanges, group members develop relationships between new information and what they already know or believe. This thinking out loud, supported by attentive listening, enhances individual and shared understandings. The time frame for this strategy is intentionally brief. It is effective to post a public timer displaying the full time allotment, so partners can determine how long to converse, and how quickly to move on to the next reading.

Procedure

1. Identify the text and the stopping points, or have partners look over a piece of text and decide together how far they will read silently before stopping to *say something*.
2. Describe the nature of the interactions, explaining that the something might be a question, a brief summary, a key point, an interesting idea or a new connection. (To focus the paired interactions, or to stimulate a specific type of thinking, the facilitator may want to provide a stem for completion. For example, “a question that comes to mind when I read this is...” Use the same stem, or provide variation for each stopping point.)
3. Model. Provide one or two examples of appropriate *say somethings*. These should be succinct, thoughtful, and related to the text.
4. Have participants begin reading the text.
5. Once each partner has reached the chosen stopping point, both partners exchange comments, or ***say something***.
6. Partners continue the process until the selection is completed.
7. After a designated amount of time, engage the whole group in a discussion of the text.