SMART STRATGIES FOR NARRATIVE TEXT

Actions, Interactions,Thoughts, Feelings, & Change

- The first, and arguably, the most important step when teaching about narrative text is for the student to develop the ability to NOTICE the significant textual clues(details) listed above that the author has purposely implanted about the characters in the story.

- Reading fiction for understanding requires anticipating and inferring the hidden meaning behind each of the clues highlighted above-**actions, interactions, thoughts, feelings,& change-** that authors purposefully build into fictional works. Readers must learn to ask: Why is the character acting that way they are? How are they feeling about that? What kind of people do they seem to be? How is that helping or impeding them from dealing with whatever problem the author has put in their way?

- From the outset, teach students that authors **hide** important understandings behind these textual clues. That readers must notice these clues and think about what they reveal about the characters.

- The thinking work for these textual clues is not always linear. Teach students that the reading process requires that they **draft** and hold on to an understanding about the character that they will likely **revise** their understanding as they find new information.

- Explain that authors of fiction **show and don't tell** the reader. Instead, they offer these textual clues that the reader must notice and think about to understand the deeper meaning of the text.

- Readers must know how to **Make More** of these textual clues.

- Analysis should be directed primarily to the main character; however, the secondary characters required analysis as well.

- Each of these textual clues-**actions, interactions, feelings, thoughts, motives, and change** reveals something important about the character's traits or motives, conflict, or problems.

- Setting can also be very important. Readers must notice and note if the setting influences the character or if reveals that it's a part of the problem the character encounters.