How Readers Draft and Revise Their Way from Confusion to Clarity

Inferring to Make Sense of an Opening Scene in Narrative Text

For narrative text, authors often show and don’t tell readers directly about the character’s traits ,problems, challenges, or desires. Rather, through noticing character actions, interactions, thoughts feelings, and change readers deduce(infer) what is happening to the character in the story.

Readers, especially struggling readers, are often confused when entering a text for the first time. They shut-down and stop reading totally because they are plopped down is a scene that may not make sense.

Readers are purposely left to figure out the who, what, when, and where of the opening of a narrative text. Readers have to figure out what’s going on in order to get a hold of the story and not be confused.

How Readers Figure-Out(Infer) the Significance of Details

Readers are expected to pick- up small textual clues that help the reader to figure out(infer) an opening scene by figuring out the Who, What, When & Where of an opening scene.

Opening Scene of *Just Juice* by Karen Hasse page 1/Chapter 1 entitled *Brown Paper Bags*

*“Where’s Juice?”* Ma says, spreading grape jelly so thin on the sliced white bread, you can hardly see the purple. “If she doesn’t get herself to school this morning, that truant officer”ll be there here before I can finish breakfast dishes.”

“Won’t matter when he comes, Ma,” Charleen says.”He won’t find juice, and even if he does, he can’t make her stay in school. He’d have to tie her to Miss Hamble’s desk to do that.”

I hide outside on the back porch, watching them through the window. My fingers rest on the rough wood. Markey, my older sister, looks out to me. But she doesn’t make one peep where I bought be found.

WHO: Who is the narrator?

WHAT: What is happening?

WHERE: Where is this taking place?

WHEN: When is this happening

**TEACH**

TEACH THAT:

* Confusion is a natural response to how narratives are written.
* The method of presenting narrative text through dramatized scenes is on of the many ways writers show and don’t tell.
* Writer convey information indirectly through details that act as textual clues that students are expected to notice and interpret.
* Moreover, writer often insert a number of other details that to make the scene come to life that readers have no idea what to make of them.
* Some of the details have been purposely planted by the author in the beginning and will play a part latter in the story.
* That what initially is puzzling will be clarified as they continue reading. This is how narrative text works.

As one reads on and infers, by *noticing the textual clues,* readers learn that Juice is the narrator telling the story. They learn the reason Juice is averse to school is because she can’t read. They learn that the family is poor and can barely feed the children which explains why the purple jelly is spread so thin and why the wood is rough that Juice has her hands on.