

Character Based Literacy Glossary

READING ACTIVITIES		
Code	Title	Description
	Read Aloud	Teacher reads the text aloud, demonstrating appropriate tone and emphasis, observation of punctuation, etc. Teacher "thinks out loud" during the reading to model the mental processes of active reading.
gr	Guided Reading	Small groups of students read texts <i>chosen by the teacher</i> on the basis of interest and reading ability. Students then have various tasks based on these books. This text might be addition to the core text or might replace the core text.
lc	Literature Circles	Students <i>choose their own books</i> from a selection presented by the teacher. Students are then grouped by text and have various individual and group tasks based on these books. This text might be addition to the core text or might replace the core text.
rw	Reading Workshop	Students choose books and work on them independently. Individual teacher conferences are important in this arrangement.
dear	Drop Everything and Read	A sustained, silent reading program in which the entire school reads for a set amount of time.
MAJOR WRITTEN PRODUCTS		
Auto	Autobiography	A student-written essay about his or her own life.
Bio	Biography	The story of someone's entire life, either true or fictional (for our purposes).
Story	Short Story	A story consisting of a series of conflicts rising to a climax, ending with a resolution of the conflict. Should have elements of plot, setting, character, and theme.
cnf	Creative Non-Fiction	Using factual events as a springboard to write what is essentially fiction.
Analytic Essay	Analytic Essay	An essay which breaks down and examines a process, action or product.
Expo Essay	Expository Essay	An essay which explains a subject. Its purpose is merely to make something clear to the reader.
Report	Research Report	An essay which involves research and notation of sources.

Persuasive Essay	Persuasive Essay	An essay whose purpose is to persuade a reader to a point of view or action.
Speech	Speech	A prepared oral presentation which could be analytic, expository, persuasive, etc.
Tech Report	Technical Report	A written work which deals with the operation of machinery, complex processes, or technical/scientific subjects which frequently require the use of charts and diagrams.
BusLtr	Business Letter	A formal letter requiring accepted format and stressing clarity and brevity.
ONGOING PROCESSES		
Code	Title	Description
timeline	Timeline, linear or spatial	A graphic representation of events in chronological order, used to help students keep track of events in text. Generally posted on wall of classroom to assist entering students to grasp the text.
newslne	Newsline or Headings	A series of statements similar to newspaper headlines which serve the purpose of a timeline. Generally posted on wall of classroom to assist entering students to grasp the text.
omp	Open Mind Portrait	A type of graphic organizer which depicts what is going on "inside a character's head." Generally posted on classroom wall to assist entering students in understanding text.
map	Geographical or Mental Map	Geographical map of the setting of a story. Generally posted on classroom wall to assist entering students in understanding text. Mental maps show relations of concepts to each other in a graphic organizer "web" format.
storyboard	Storyboard	A process borrowed from film production in which major scenes of a movie are represented in cartoon form in chronological order, thus assisting comprehension of the storyline.
wordwall	Wordwall	A listing of words on the wall of the classroom. Could be list of difficult words, new words from text, or terms necessary to write an essay. It is used as a reference to increase use of the words and thus increase vocabulary.
book	Scrap Book or Memory Book	A collection of items which the student could bring to class or produce in a class activity. The purpose is to

		connect students' actions and experiences with the text.
postcards	Postcards	Student-created postcards, with graphic and/or written message, derived from text being read. Could be "from a character," "to a character" or addressed to some third party, expressing the reader's reaction to a portion of the text.
kwl	Know Want to know Learned Graphic Organizer	A graphic organizer with three columns, What I Know, What I Need to Know, and What I have Learned. Used to structure information gathering. The last column is filled in new items are added to the other columns as the lessons progress.
cartoon	Cartoon	A drawing depicting a significant portion/aspect of the text.
life	Lifeline	A timeline of a character's life, or the student's life. Dates are marked, with important events noted.
VISUAL ORAL PROCESSES		
Code	Title	Description
omp	Open Mind Portrait	A type of graphic organizer which depicts what is going on "inside a character's head." General posted on classroom wall to assist entering students in understanding text.
sketch	Sketch and Stretch	A visual product, such as a drawing or collage, which expresses the theme of a story or some other similar abstraction such as conflicts.
cartoon	Cartoon	A drawing depicting a significant portion/aspect of the text.
cubing	Cubing	A student work project in which each student makes a six-sided figure with the information on the sides of the cube. The purpose of the activity is to have students explore a concept from different points of view. For example, reasons for and against a proposition, comparisons between characters, associations with an event, synonyms and antonyms for a given word.
g6	Six Graphic Organizers	Six helpful graphic organizers: Character Trait Map; Beginning, Middle and End Map; Setting Map; Character Interaction Map; Plot Profile Map; and the "What?" graphic organizer.
mainidea	Main Idea Chart	A graphic organizer which relates main ideas to supporting concepts.

ads	Advertisements	Drawings or other graphics to advertise the text or some portion of aspect of it.
posters	Posters	Various Posters to represent aspects of the text. Problem-Solution, Character, Plot Sequence, etc.
layout	Layout	Magazine page layouts to illustrate an article (never to be written) in a real or fictional magazine. Follows the format of a magazine such as <i>Time</i> or <i>People</i> . Will have sketched graphics and indication of text material.
retelling	Retelling	Students tell the content of the story/essay they are going to write three times to other students. This clarifies the content.
theater	Reader's Theater	Students use a script in a read-aloud format. Script can be student-produced or published.
bmark	Bookmark	Students create bookmarks which contain illustrations and words relevant to the book. Could be vocabulary, them, memory aids, etc.
prop	Prop, Display, Object	Realia. Students or teacher brings objects related to text into class for examination.
collage	Collage	Graphic composed of pictures and objects cut out of print sources such as magazines.
rap	Rap	Contemporary rhythmic speech used to involve students in explication of text.
show	Show	A drama or skit presented by students illustrating some point in the text.
sequel	Sequel	Students produce some product which indicates what happens in a "next chapter" after the book ends.
mobile	Mobile	A collection of objects attached to each other in a moveable manner which expresses the relation of the objects to each other.
box	Story Box	A diorama.
media	Multi-Media Presentation	Use of slides, PowerPoint, sound, etc. to present concepts regarding the text.
film	film plan or script	Plan or script reflects scenes from the text, perhaps the events of a chapter in the text. Can be used for Readers' Theater.
magazine	Magazine	Create magazine whose content reflects various aspects of the text. Could have interviews with characters, recipes for dinners described in text, etc.

radio	Radio Program	The outline or script for a radio program recreating portions of text.
DAILY WRITING PRODUCTS		
Code	Title	Description
snapshot	Snapshot	A paragraph which "freezes" an event like a snapshot (OK, maybe more like a really short video). It describes exactly what occurred at the moment.
throughshot	Throughshot	A paragraph which freezes a moment, and goes further to explain what the writer thought and felt at the moment.
poem	poem	Poetry to reflect reaction to text. Poetry is built on metaphor and simile, not merely rhyming sounds.
dejournal	Double entry Journal	A two column journal kept by student. In column 1 are listed quotations or events. Students respond in column 2.
simj	Simulated Journal	The imaginary diary of a character.
djournal	Dialogue Journal	The student asks a character questions and records answers, or gives responses to characters and events as a dialogue with someone.
log	Reading Log	Student-maintained records of titles and pages read.
c?	Comment and Question	Students keep notes as reading. Comments on the quality of the story, opinion of characters, and poses questions about what is not understood.
qwrite	Quick Write	A writing assignment of five to ten minutes on a teacher-given subject. The purpose is to get the writing muscles warmed up.
cards	Postcards	Student-created postcards, with written message, derived from text being read. Could be "from a character" or express the reader's reaction of a portion of the text.
letter	Letters	Correspondence between the student and another real or imaginary person, such as a character in the text, or the author.
WORD STUDY AND CONVENTIONS		
woe	<i>Woe Is I</i>	A published literacy program for secondary students.
DOL	Daily Oral Language	Nothing is perfect - and this entry proves the point in this case.
Checklist	Editor's Checklist	Student/teacher produced list of the student's common errors, to be used by the student in editing work.

W3	<i>Words, Words, Words</i>	A published literacy program for secondary students.
L!	<i>Language!</i>	A published literacy program for secondary students.
WTW	<i>Words Their Way</i>	A published literacy program for secondary students.
phAZ	<i>Phonics from A-Z</i>	A book containing a compilation of activities to assist low-level readers in basic sight-sound skills, word recognition and spelling.
instant	Instant Words	The list of the 240 basic words compiled by Dr. Fry.
syn	Synthetic Phonics	Approaching phonics instruction with blending sounds together to form words and pseudowords.
ana	Analytic Phonics	Approaching phonics instruction by breaking up words in parts, including syllables and individual sounds.
phono	Phonograms	The smallest units of sound in a language which have meaning.
roots+	Roots and Affixes	Study of root words and prefixes and suffixes which change their meaning.