Reading Activity – Graphic Organizers*

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Objectives

Enabling readers to create graphic organizers for better reading comprehension (verbally and visually) and retention and to develop their higher order thinking skills.

Participation: Individual

Material

Any text – Example: "Children – handle with care". This is a very informative essay dealing with how children have to be helped for their holistic development in three significant areas, viz. academic excellence, social development and emotional development and the parents' and teachers' roles in nurturing them. (http://vikaspedia.in/education/child-rights/children-handle-with-care)

Preparation

Attempting consciously to form graphic organizers for better understanding of different kinds of texts.

Procedure

• Read the selected text rapidly to get a gist of it.

• As you read the text a second time in a detailed manner, make an attempt to convert the text or the key ideas into a suitable visual form, depending upon the nature of the text.

• The essay on "Children – handle with care" lends itself to the visual image of a spider map – the main idea to be placed in the centre and all the related ideas around it. [See the image on the next page.]

• The visual image leads to, besides better comprehension and retention, a plan of action. If one were to be affected by the issue, one would attempt to analyze the causes in one's own context and resort to rectify them to the extent possible or at least resolve not to contribute to such a state of affairs by oneself, which is clearly the purpose of education.

• Visual learning enables one to recall the images with least effort and facilitates the thinking process of analyzing, synthesizing and evaluating the information, leading to an action plan.

Learning outcomes

1) Learners recognize that converting ideas/concepts into visual forms can lead to better understanding and longer retention.

2) Learners realize that scaffolded learning leads them to express themselves effectively, both in spoken and in written modes, even spontaneously, and act on them.

Further activity

Creating different forms of graphic organizers while reading a text (at least mentally, if not in written form) to make it an unconscious reading strategy for better

reading comprehension.

*Graphic Organizers are visual aids, which are used to organize ideas and to show relationships among them. They are found to be very useful for facilitating learning and retention. They are also referred to by different terms, such as story map, concept map, knowledge map, cognitive organizer, and so on. There are many forms of graphic organizers and some of the commonly used ones are flow chart, timeline, fishbone diagram, spider map, KWL, Venn diagram, step-by-step chart, and inverted triangle.

Spider Map

A spider map is an organizational tool used to display knowledge in a visual framework which resembles a cobweb. We can organize information from our reading and make connections in a meaningful structure. Still more importantly, it helps us remember details as one chunk rather in a linear way and plan to act. Besides parents and teachers, a student's circle of friends plays a far more critical role.

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