Text of the Week

A Structure of Weekly Shared Reading
Day One: First Glance

- Preview and Predict
- Point out features
- Confirm genre
- Set purpose for reading text

Mmmm...Chocolate!
by Alice Boynton and Wiley Blevins

Your favorite chocolate treat doesn't start out so sweet. Discover how science turns a bitter bean into melt-in-your-mouth chocolate.

Every year, Americans spend a whopping 1 billion dollars buying treats for their valentines. That's a lot of chocolate hearts!

Though Valentine's Day is a good excuse for a chocolate feast, Americans love this tasty treat year-round. It's no wonder then that chocolate makers spend a lot of time getting chocolate to look and taste just right.

It's a Fruit!

While chocolate may seem like a dream come true, it actually starts out as a fruit that grows on trees. Cacao (kuh-KOW) pods—fruits roughly the size and shape of a football—grow on cacao trees in warm regions around the world.

Clean the Beans
As the beans dry, farmers remove any dirt and broken pieces they find.

It's Liquid Chocolate!
To create a unique flavor, chocolate makers mix liquid chocolate with different ingredients and then pour or squirt it into molds.

Solid as a Bar
After the liquid chocolate has hardened into a solid bar, it is removed from its mold.
Day Two: Doing a Double Take

- Make connections
- Ask questions
  - What do I already know?
  - What information is important or interesting?
- Determine Importance
  - What is this mainly about?

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Day Three: Filling in the Picture

• Visualizing
  • Creating a movie in your head
  • Creating graphic organizers you can see in your head
  • Sketching a picture or diagram
Day Four: Digging Deeper

- Inferring
- Think about the moral/lesson
- Identify the author’s tone, purpose, and perspective

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Day Five: Getting the Big Picture

• Synthesizing

• What have I learned?

• How has my thinking changed?
Making a Snow Sculpture
Harriet Webster

Tired of making snowmen? Eager for a new challenge? Then try a snow sculpture. Here’s a project that requires few materials but lots of imagination and energy. Any number of friends can be part of the fun. Just be certain to plan your project according to the number of helpers on hand.

Timing is crucial. First, choose a day with subfreezing temperatures and plenty of snow on the ground. Second, it is important that several additional days of subfreezing conditions are anticipated.

Before digging into the snow, do some planning. Decide what shape you want to sculpt. Try to choose a subject without too much detail. (Sculpting a recognizable person is very difficult.) Then rule a piece of blank paper into one-inch squares. Letting one inch on paper equal one foot, make a drawing of your sculpture on this grid. As a general rule, a four-person team working very hard can complete in one day the snow mound needed for a six-foot high by six-foot wide snow sculpture.

Begin your outdoor work by making a large mound of snow, using old boards to support the sides. Soak the mound with water and then stomp on it.
If I Were a Kite

If I were a kite
I’d kneel,
istretch my skinny arms
out wide,
and wait for wind.

My yellow shirt would
fill up like a sail
and flap,
tugging my crisscrossed
wooden bones and me
toward seas of cloud.

My rippling paper skin
would rustle like applause
as I inhaled,
gulping one last gust
to swoop me giddy-quick
above the trees.

My red rag tail
would drift
toward everything green
to balance me

So all day
I could
loop and climb

loop and climb
and
soar
into pure sky.

—I Jacqueline Sweeney

I’m Up Here

I’m up here.
You’re down there.
And nothing in that space between us
But a mile of air.

Where I sail:
Clouds pass.
Where you run:
Green grass.
Where I float:

Birds sing.
One thin thing there is
That holds us close together:
Kite string.

—Karla Kuskin

Who is the speaker in “I’m Up Here”?

A. a bird
B. a cloud
C. a kite
D. a person

In “If I Were a Kite,” the main comparison is between the kite and

A. a ship at sea.
B. trees in the wind.
C. the speaker’s voice.
D. the speaker’s body.

Which book would most likely have other poems like these?

A. Build Your Own Kite
B. Kites in Rhythm and Rhyme
C. George and the Flyaway Kite
D. Ben Franklin and His First Kite
If I Were a Kite

If I were a kite
I'd soar,
stretch my skinny arms
and
3 and wait for wind.

My yellow skirt would
fill up like a sail
and
fly,

10 worker boxes and me

forward toward cloud.

My ripped paper skin
would rustle like applause

15 gliding on last gust
to swoop me giddy-quick

above the trees.

My red rag tail
would drift
20 toward everything green
to balance me

So all day
I could

25 loop and climb
and
our
into pure sky

—Karla Kuskin

I'm Up Here

I'm up here.
You'd drop down.
And nothing in the space between us
But a mile of air.

3 When I call:
Clouds pass.
When you run,
Green grass.
When I stand.

10 Bush stop.
One little thing there is
That holds us close together:
Kite string.

—Jacqueline Sweeney
Literature is like an apple . . .
Readers work from the outside to the inside ~ Working to get to the core.

Informational Text is like an orange . . . .
Readers do not have to proceed in a specified order ~ Take it a section at a time