

# STRATEGIES FOR THE 5<sup>TH</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELA CLASSROOM

<p><b>Syntax &amp; Semantics</b></p>	<p><b>Creating Semantic Maps on Wordcloud.com</b></p> <p>Have each student choose a word that they don't know from a text they are reading. After looking up the definition and pronunciation, they will create a word cloud on Wordcloud.com using words and phrases that fit the meaning of the word. The shape of the word cloud should fit the meaning as well.</p> <p>Adapted from <a href="#">Connecting Word Meanings Through Semantic Mapping   Reading Rockets</a></p>	<p><b>Sentence Elaboration (Syntax Activity)</b></p> <p>Provide students with a simple sentence and then ask them to add specific parts of speech, clauses, or phrases appropriate for the grade level to create more meaningful and complex sentences.</p> <p>Adapted from <a href="#">Syntactic Awareness: Teaching Sentence Structure (Part 1) - Keys to Literacy</a></p>
<p><b>Making Inferences &amp; Understanding Figurative Language</b></p>	<p><b>Playing Detective (Inference Activity)</b></p> <p>Present the class with a suitcase containing the belongings of a mystery character. Unpack the items one by one. The class must gather clues about the individual from the items in the suitcase and put together a profile of who this mystery figure might be.</p> <p>Adapted from <a href="#">Making Inferences to Improve Reading Comprehension (thoughtco.com)</a></p>	<p><b>Top of the Pops (Figurative Language Activity)</b></p> <p>Have students identify an example of figurative language in one of their favorite songs. They will create a poster or Google Slide containing the example, the type of figurative language, the song title, and the artist's name. They will add graphics that illustrate the example.</p> <p>Source: <a href="#">5 Strategies To Make Teaching Figurative Language A Game Changer – Lit with Lyns</a></p>
<p><b>Understanding the Purpose of Reading Literary Texts and Informative Texts</b></p>	<p><b>Create a Visual (Literary Text)</b></p> <p>Students will create a visual representation in the medium of their choice to illustrate components of the text. They could depict a specific component, such as characters, setting, or objects, or the symbolism or themes used by the author, poet, or playwright.</p> <p>Adapted from <a href="#">20 Simple Strategies for Teaching Literature - The Integrated Teacher</a></p>	<p><b>Create a Podcast (Informational Text)</b></p> <p>Have students choose a topic for a podcast which they will research using sources of informational text found in the classroom or school library. It is important that they have control of the choice of topic. Allow them to free-read on the topic. They will record a podcast to tell all that they learned or found interesting from their reading.</p> <p>Adapted from <a href="#">8 Strategies to Keep Informational Reading Fun   Edutopia</a></p>

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