NSDAR Educational Resources Committee



"Summarizing Events in Historical Fiction"

Contributor: Kelley Hutchins Grade Level: 4th

1. Identify the standards to be addressed:

RL 4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, event in a story drawing on specific details in the text W4.9 Draw evidence from literary text to support analysis and reflection

2. Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:

Students will summarize the text using the BME (Beginning, Middle, End) strategy. Students will write the summary in paragraph format.

3. Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:

Copy of Sybil's Night Ride by Karen B. Winnick (found at your local library or bookstore,) sticky notes (3 for each student), notebook paper, pencil.

4. Introduction of the topic:

This ELA lesson will support a broad study of the American Revolution in social studies. Students should have prior knowledge of the causes of the Revolution prior to reading the book. Activate prior knowledge by asking students if they know who Paul Revere is. Tell them that they may be surprised that a young girl completed a similar ride in 1777 to warn militia that the British were coming.

5. **Procedure for instruction**:

- Prior to students reading the book, place a sticky note at the beginning, middle, and end of the book.
- In a guided reading group, have students take turns reading the book out loud. Stop to discuss the main character, setting, point of view, and figurative language used throughout the book. Be sure to have students to use text evidence as they give answers.
- When students reach a sticky note, have them write a sentence that tells
 what happened at that part of the book. Discuss what each student wrote to
 see if everyone had similar thoughts. Tell students that they are using a
 strategy called B-M-E to remember the beginning, middle, and end of a story.
 This will help them summarize a story.

6. Lesson closure:

Ask students to use their BME sticky notes to summarize what the story is about in a paragraph. Remind students that their first sentence should introduce the book title and author. Also remind students to include complete sentences and correct capitalization and punctuation.

7. Assessment of Understanding:

Student completion of a paragraph that correctly summarizes the beginning, middle, and end of Sybil's Night Ride. Student paragraphs must use complete sentences, capitalization, and punctuation.