

**The Reader's Toolbox**  
**Dr. Frank Serafini**  
**Professor - Arizona State University**

An Assertion:

The strategies readers utilize when reading are directly related to the texts they are reading and why they are reading them.

An Example

**Reading Where the Wild Things Are:**

As a bedtime story...

For one's own enjoyment...

For a discussion in a children's lit class...

To write a book review...

To take an Accelerated Reader quiz...

As a model for one's writing...

As a model for one's illustrations...

In a guided reading group...

**So...Comprehension Strategy Instruction Must Be:**

- Contextualized – must take into consideration the setting and purpose of the reading event
- Intentional – must purposeful and helpful to the reader
- Obvious – must draw upon texts and contexts that make the strategy apparent
- Connected – must make connections to the experiences of the reader and the texts they are reading
- In Service of Meaning – must focus on meaning and not decoding or other “basic” skills

Reading Comprehension is...

**An orchestration of the following processes:**

- 1) **Navigating Textual Elements:** including language, design features, & visual images
- 2) **Generating Meanings:** using available information to make sense of what is read
- 3) **Articulating & Representing Meanings:** making one's meanings visible for consideration in a community of readers

Reader's Toolbox Strands:

- Navigating Text**
- Generating Meanings**
- Articulating & Representing Meanings**

## **Navigating Text**

Endpapers, Typography, & Narrative Structures

### **Roles of Endpapers**

1. Make Connections to Narrative (Objects, Color)
2. Thematic
3. Part of the Narrative

### **Navigating Typography**

Bold - Timid

Modern - Classic

Playful - Serious

### **Typographical features**

Weight

Color

Formality

Flourishes

#### **Typographical Feature: Weight**

Used to create emphasis – bold to thin

Can be used by readers to determine significance

#### **Typographical Feature: Color**

Color can be used for classifying elements and developing associations among elements.

Color has been associated with particular meanings or emotions in social contexts.

#### **Typographical Feature: Formality**

Formal and informal fonts suggest status, personality and power relations.

Can also relate to thematic elements.

#### **Typographical Feature: Flourishes**

Flourishes can suggest action, style, vectors, and movement.

Can add to readers' interpretations

### **Navigating Narrative Text structures**

Traditional Plot

Parallel Structures

Hero Cycle

## **Generating meanings: Visual Design Features**

Are part of the illustrations or ancillary to them  
Adds motion and designates movement paths  
Signifies who is speaking  
Shows mental states or provides interior dialogue

## **Visual Design Features**

Speech / Thought Bubbles  
Upfixes  
Impact Stars  
Motion Lines  
Reduplication

## **Drawing on Art Criticism**

Realism  
Folk Art  
Modern Art  
Surrealism

## **Questions to Ask**

How does the art movement add to the mood, or representation of the story?  
What simple aspects of the art movement can be used to understand the narrative?  
Why did the author choose this artistic technique or movement?  
How would your interpretations change if the art style changed?

## **Expanding Perspectives**

Noticings-Meanings-Wonderings

## **Articulating & representing meanings**

Turn, Pair, and Share  
Community Notebooks  
Literature Response Logs  
Book Reviews  
Graffiti Boards

## **Some implications**

1. As texts continue to evolve into digital and multimodal ensembles, the strategies readers will need to be successful will have to evolve as well.
2. We cannot teach strategies in isolation, they only make sense once we know what a reader is reading and why they are reading it.
3. Teachers need to know this stuff if we expect them to teach it.

**[www.frankserafini.com](http://www.frankserafini.com)**