Reading Aloud Guide

Before you read a story or text:

- Look at the cover and read the title. Ask the student for their observations, reflections and predictions. For picture books, take a "picture walk" to preview the book and generate prior knowledge.

During a story or text reading:

- As you or the student reads change one's **voice** to fit the mood or action.
- If you notice a new **vocabulary** word that the student may not know, discuss it and explain its meaning.
- If a student encounters an error or misreads a word or passage ask:
  - "Does that look right?" "Does that sound right? Or "Does that make sense?"
- For narrative texts ask the students to make **predictions** about the plot, characters, and the setting. Discuss the predictions you made as the story unfolds.
  - "Is this what you thought would happen?" "Now what do you think will happen?"
- Share one another's own thoughts about the story/text.
  - How do you think ___ feels? How would you feel if that were you?
  - What have we learned about (main character/subject) so far? How do we know that? (Try and reach for deeper meaning like character traits – she's brave, he's a good friend, she's thoughtful, or details for explicit or inferred. This is also a good opportunity for vocabulary development.)
  - What questions do you have about an event or character in the story/text?

After you read a story or text:

- Ask student(s) to **describe** one of the characters or main topics, or how they might feel or act if they were one of the characters.
- Discuss the **predictions** made before and during the reading.
- Ask **questions** about the story or text. For example, you might ask:
  - What was the most exciting/interesting part for you? Why?
  - Was there a part that you didn't like? Why didn't you?
  - Are you like the main character at all? Do you know anyone that is?
  - Why do you think the author chose this title? What would you have called it?
  - What questions do you have for the author?
  - Is this story like another story you've read? How?
- The purpose of these questions is not only to guide an interesting conversation, but also to model for students how to monitor their own **comprehension** as they read.