



Towanda Elementary School

"Home of the Bulldogs"

Principal Karrah Jensen
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Towanda, IL 61776

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www.unit5.org/towanda

October 2009
Grades 3—5
Visualizing

Dear Parents of Towanda School,

This month we have begun our reading comprehension program, "The 7 Keys to Comprehension." This is a whole school reading improvement initiative. Teachers have taken great pride in implementing lessons that encourages growth and strategies for comprehension. As a team, Towanda staff have designed bulletin boards and a reward system to keep students motivated throughout the school year and this year long program.

Attached you will find a pamphlet outlining the entire 7 Keys program for the year. This will give you a small sample of what is to come throughout the next several months.

Our first key or strategy, visualizing, will be introduced in your child's classroom this month. We will also talk about it during our Friday morning assemblies. When visualizing, we create pictures in our minds. We use our sense of sight, smell, taste, touch and hearing to help our brains produce pictures in our minds as we read. These pictures enhance our understanding of what we are reading. It is like a movie in our minds.

When we read a book about a beach we should see the waves in our mind, smell the salty air, hear the lapping waves and feel the cool sprinkle of the ocean on our skin. Help your child utilize this skill when you read with your child at home.

Have your child choose a book to read. Any book will work, but if you can't decide, we have provided a suggestion list on the back of this page. Your child should then complete the homework sheet by drawing a picture of the image in his/her head. They should list the words that helped them to form that image. Have your child return this sheet to their teacher no later than Thursday, October 29 in order to earn their first key.

Thanks for your help and support as we strive to make our Towanda students the best readers they can be.

It is a great day to be a bulldog!





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Grades K—2
Visualizing

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Choose a book to read with your child or choose one from our suggested list. Discuss images with your child as you read together. If your child is reading independently, ask about what images your child sees in his/her head.

Help your child complete the homework sheet. They should draw one of the images they had in their heads as they listened to or read the story. Have your child return this sheet to their teacher no later than Thursday, October 29 in order to earn their first key.

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Suggested books for Visualizing

Shorter/Picture books:

Miss Rumphius, Barbara Cooney

When Grandpa Kissed His Elbow, Cynthia DeFelice

Tar Beach, Faith Ringgold

Home Place, Crescent Dragonwagon

Tales of Gambling Grandpa, Dayal Kaur Khalsa

Abuela, Arthur Dorros

All the Small Poems, Valerie Worth

The Seashore Book, Charlotte Zolotow

Twilight Comes Twice, Ralph Fletcher

Baby Whale's Journey, Jonathan London

Hurricane, Jonathan London

Dream Weaver, Jonathan London

Longer Books:

Shadow Ball, Geoffrey Ward and Ken Burns

Grassroots, Carl Sandburg

The Van Gogh Café, Cynthia Rylant

The Whipping Boy, Sid Fleishman

Because of Winn Dixie, Kate DiCamillo

Julie of the Wolves, Jean Craighead George

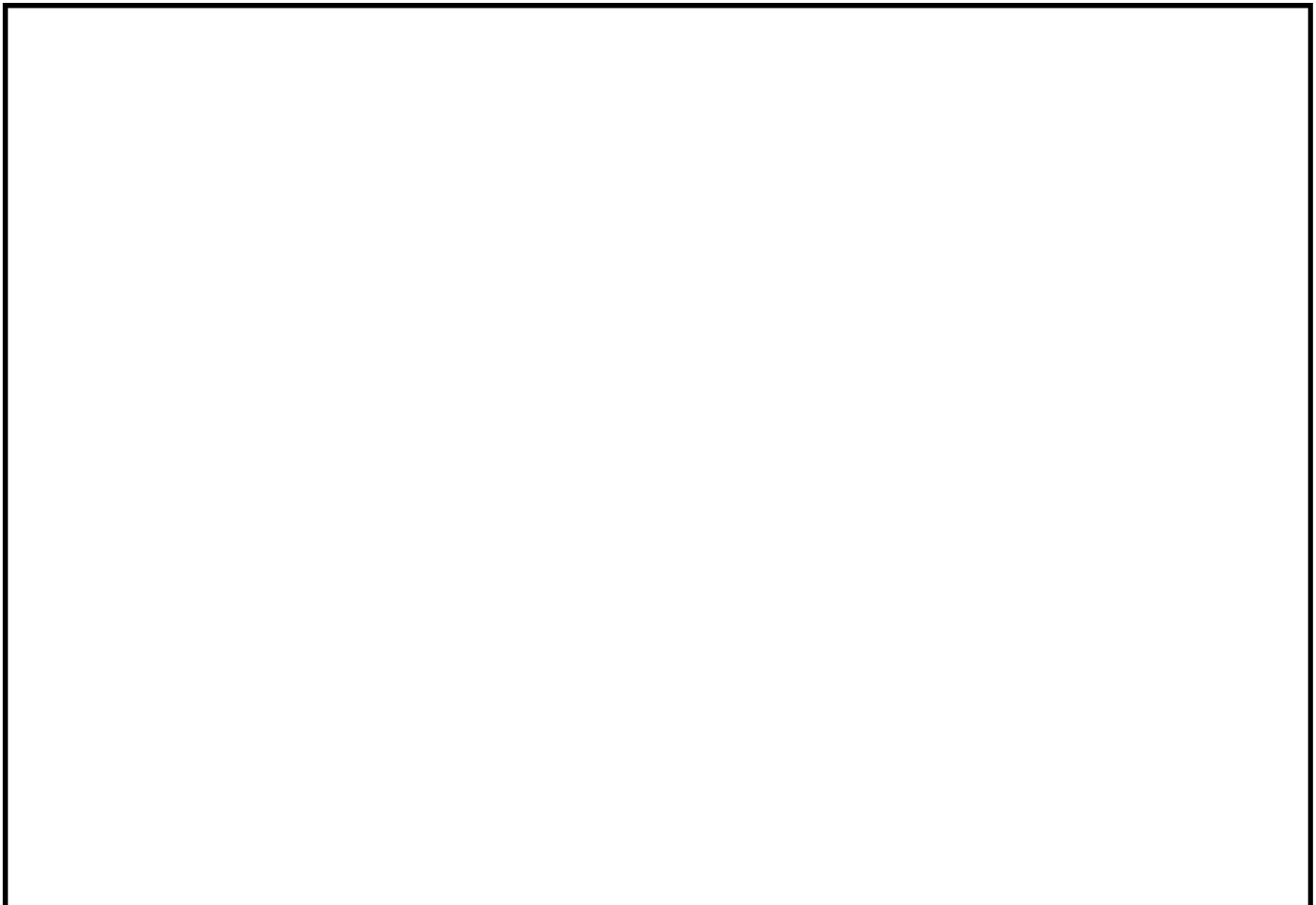
The Ancient One, T.A. Barron

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Mental Images and the Text that Created Them

I was reading _____ . When I heard these words:

This was my mental image:



Student Name: _____



Title _____

This is the picture I have in my head.

ERROR: syntaxerror
OFFENDING COMMAND: --nostringval--

STACK:

/Title
()
/Subject
(D:20091002081503-05'00')
/ModDate
()
/Keywords
(PDFCreator Version 0.9.5)
/Creator
(D:20091002081503-05'00')
/CreationDate
(steinbas)
/Author
-mark-