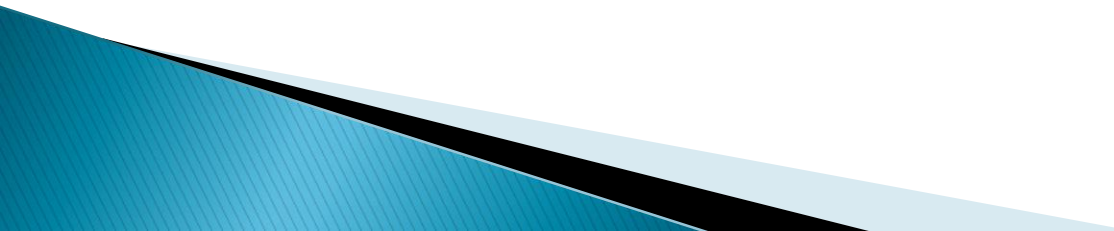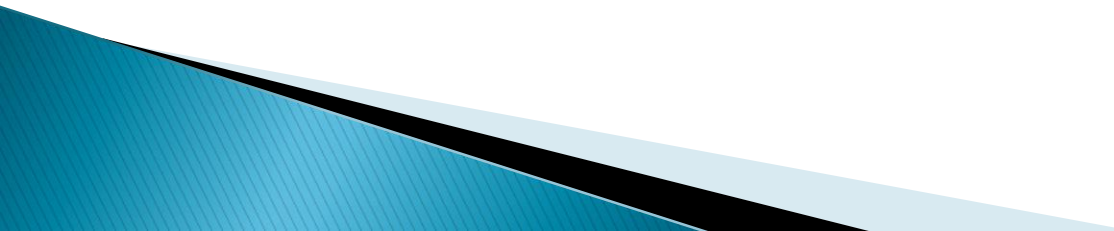# Think-Alouds

Instructional strategy: literacy and comprehension building
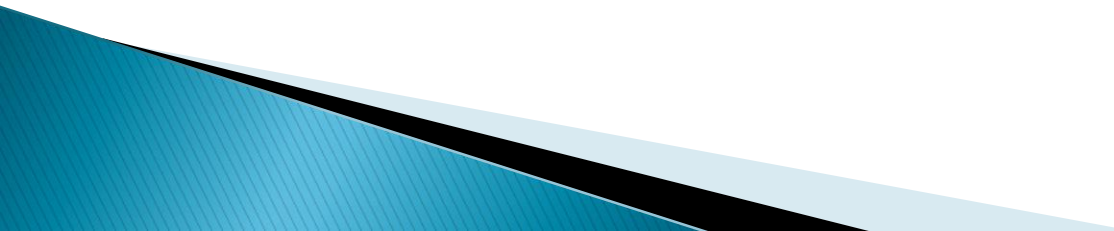
Ma. Carina C. Dizon
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What are Think-Alouds?

- Students harness and monitor their thinking processes.
- Students use it for comprehension building, literacy development, and test taking strategies.
- Teachers model it. Students can use it in groups and individually.
- Revolves around metacognition (thinking about your thinking), applying it to comprehension and problem solving.
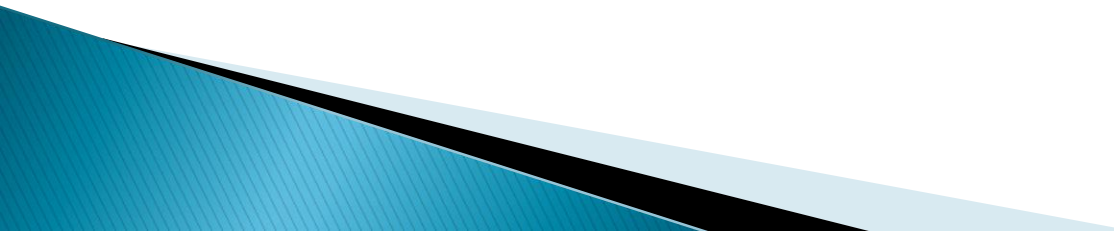
Why are Think-Alouds effective?

▸ Allows students to harness their "inner voice" when reading or engaging with content.

▸ Helps students rationalize and provide evidence of how they derived a response or solution.

▸ Think-Alouds can be applied to test taking skills, assisting in finding the best response.

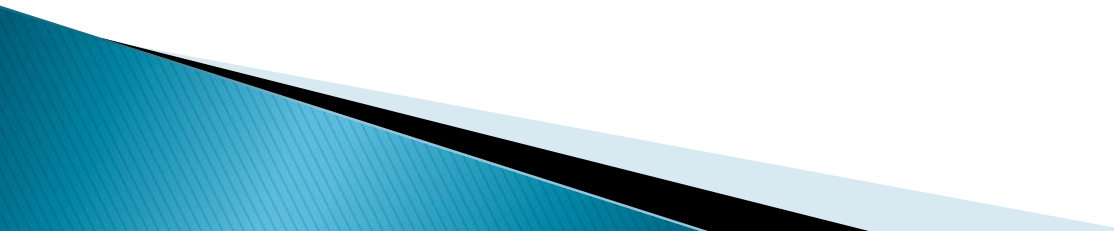# When can Think-Alouds be used?

- Whenever reading textual material.
- Whenever finding solutions to problems.
- Whenever going through steps in a process or procedure.
- Whenever attempting to find correct answers on tests.

How to use think-aloud?

- Select passage that contains points of difficulty, ambiguities, contradictions, or unknown words
- Have students listen as you model thinking aloud
- Have students practice with partners
- Have students practice independently
- Encourage students to transfer the process to other reading

Think-aloud

- Develop hypotheses by making predictions
- Develop images
- Share analogies
- Monitor comprehension
- Regulate comprehension

Tips for Students

- Help students verbalize their internal thoughts, and build a solid understanding of what they are reading before, during, and after reading a text, by modelling the following statements and questions

Before Reading:

- When you first approach a text, ask yourself, "What does the title mean? What does it remind me of? What is the author known for? What do I predict this will be about?
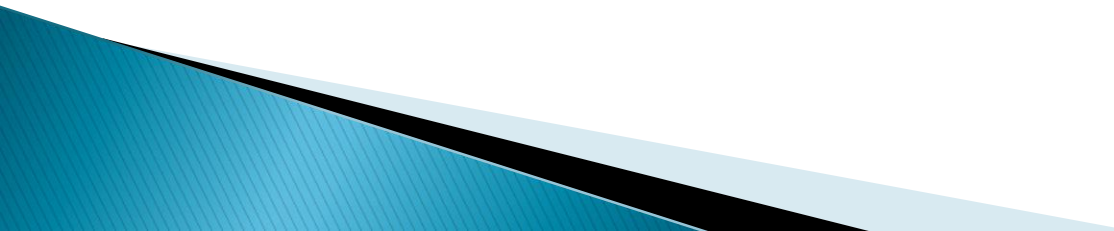
During Reading:

▸ Throughout your reading, ask questions like, "I am confused by___?" "I do not understand___?" "I like the paragraph about___." "Why didn't the character___?"

After Reading:

▸ Once you have completed the text say to yourself, "I originally thought this but now I think this."My overall opinion of the book is ___. From this story I learned that_____."
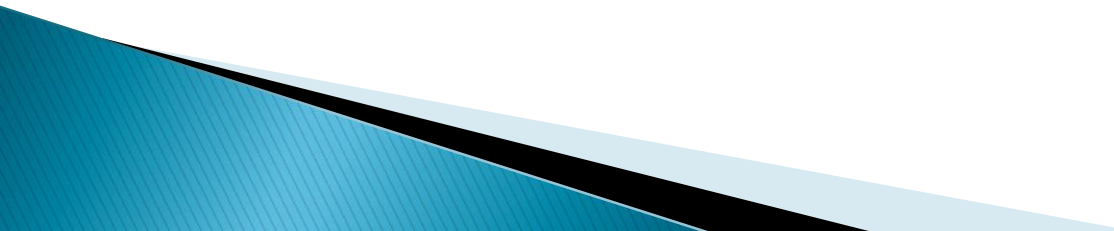
Using Think-Alouds as an Assessment Tool

- Teachers can listen as students think aloud and assess their strengths and weaknesses. This strategy can be used to assess students' problem solving skills in math. Teachers can listen in as students walk through the steps they are using, which will help to assess the strategies the student is using. This allows the teacher to pinpoint if the student is using the strategy effectively and what they need to work on.

Using Think-Alouds as an Assessment Tool

▸ A tape recorder is a good tool to use when assessing the think-aloud strategy is in action. Ask students to say everything that they are thinking as they are reading or figuring out a problem. If they forget to talk, then prompt them by saying, "What are you thinking now?" Play back the tape once the student is finished to assess them.

Using Think-Alouds as an Assessment Tool

- The students that visualize, participate by thinking aloud, and are engaged in the text that they read, get more out of the text.
- Provide students with a wide variety of texts to help them explore this strategy even further. By doing so, students will strive for deeper understanding every time they read.

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