

Text Structure & Features

How to Predict Using Text Structure and Text Features

After you introduce your students to the **structures and features of recount** you should immerse them in this text type so they can build background knowledge of its structure and its text features.

How to do it

Introduce your students to the strategy of PCR.

PCR stands for

- **Predicting**
- **Confirming**
- **Reflecting**

Why this is important

This process assists students in gaining background knowledge about the text features and text structures of recounts.

Predicting

Before a Read Aloud the students will use their prior knowledge to *predict what type of recount* the book might be. They will use the title of the book and the information gleaned from the cover such as an illustration, an author's name, the blurb on the back of the book or a recommendation. For example, the book might be a memoir, a biography, an autobiography, a diary, a letter or collection of letters. Each type would have some clues that would help your students to think about the structure of the text. You should note the predictions and the reasons given by the students.

Confirming

As you read aloud, **revisit the predictions to confirm, revise or add information**. Discuss how the text structures and the text features helped students to understand the genre.

For example, if the book is a biography there will be some significant events in the person's life that will be noted by dates. If the book is a diary the entries, day by day, will provide the structure that supports the comprehension. If it is a letter there will be an address, a date and a salutation at the beginning of the letter.

Reflecting

In this stage the students will be *reflecting on the text features and the text structures* that each author has used, and they will be predicting what structures each author might use in their next text. This stage also provides students with enough information for them to try writing their own text.

For example, if you have read aloud many of Patricia Polacco's books your students will be able to identify the features and structures that make her memoir writing obvious.

At this point it would be wise to capture the students' learning on a chart about Text Features and Text Structures of RECOUNT.