Illustrate Your Persuasive Book Review

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:

• Learn strategies for choosing which parts of a book review to illustrate.
• Generate ideas for illustrations in a group.
• Discuss how to apply the strategies to their own persuasive book reviews.

Preparation

Materials Needed

• Chart paper and markers
• Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation

If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the modeling text onto chart paper.

1. Focus

Explain Illustrating a Book Review

Ask: When you read a text, what types of things catch your attention?
Encourage students to generate their own ideas about how certain illustrations grab their attention and make them want to read more.

Say: Many book reviews contain illustrations from the book. The writer of the book review decides which illustrations to include in his or her book review. The writer wants to include illustrations or pictures that help a reader understand or visualize certain parts of the story that is being reviewed. These illustrations can help a reader visualize the scene or character. When authors choose which parts of a text to illustrate, they put themselves in the place of the reader and think about what would be most interesting to the reader and what would make the reader want to read the book being reviewed.

Model Illustrating a Book Review

Display the modeling text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

The story begins deep below the surface of the sea. Hidden there is the Sea King’s castle. “Its walls are built of coral,” Andersen writes. “The roof is formed of shells.” The author’s descriptions are so vivid that you will feel as though you are under the sea.

Modeling Text

Say: This text is from a book review about the story “The Little Mermaid.” It’s a story about a mermaid who wants to leave the sea and live on land. I have already revised and edited the text to make it the best it can be. I have made sure my book review makes sense and includes detailed descriptions of the characters. I want to include illustrations that grab my readers’ attention and make them interested in the story “The Little Mermaid.” This part of the book review would be a good place to include an illustration. I would want this illustration showing the castle under the sea to look magical. I could include many details and colors. This would appeal to many readers.
2. Rehearse

Practice Illustrating a Book Review

Invite students to share their book reviews with a partner. They should discuss with a partner which parts of the book reviews would make the best illustrations.

Share and Discuss

Bring students together and invite them to share ideas they have for illustrations in their book reviews. Ask them to explain why they chose these sections to illustrate.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that choosing important sections of a book review to illustrate is an important part of the writing process. Using illustrations makes the book review more interesting to readers and also encourages them to want to read the book being reviewed. Keep this in mind as you publish your persuasive book reviews.

Encourage students to focus on illustrating their writing when they prepare to publish their persuasive book reviews. During conferences, reinforce students’ use of this and other strategies using the prompts on your conferring flip chart.

4. Share

Bring the class together. Invite volunteers to share the illustrations they created for their persuasive book reviews and explain their choices.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Work one on one with ELs to help them decide on an illustration for a piece of their own writing.

Intermediate and Advanced

Pair ELs with fluent English speakers during the partner activity.

All Levels

If you have ELs whose first language is Spanish, share this English/Spanish cognate: illustration/la ilustración.