

Reading Like a Writer

Thinking about the writer behind the words, noticing author's craft, imagining the teaching possibilities.

Writer's Craft

- How is the poem organized? (sequential order, list, small moment, snapshots, leads and endings, shape poem)
- What do you notice about the way the sentences are structured (paragraphs, short vs. long sentences, etc.)?
- What interesting language/writer's craft do you notice (literary devices, beautiful language, etc.)?

Illustrations/Photographs

- How do the illustrations and/or photographs help you, the reader, to understand the writing in a deeper way? How do the illustrations/photographs keep you engaged (connect to your emotions)?
- What do you notice about how the writing is structured/organized in relationship to the illustrations (text on top/bottom, bordered, left/right, on top of illustrations, etc.)?

Author's Purpose/Inspiration

- What do you think inspired the author to write this?
- Can you tell anything about the writer from the dedication or author blurb?
- What is the writer's purpose? (to entertain, instruct, persuade, to evoke an emotional response, to provide another point of view, to record an experience, etc.)
- Who is the audience?

Purposeful Punctuation

- What do you notice about the use of punctuation (ellipses, exclamation points, colons, em dashes, etc.)?
- What kind of techniques (white space, line breaks, bold or different print), caps does the poet use to show you how the poem should be read?
- Always ask yourself, "WHY did the author/illustrator add this? How does it affect the way I read, see, experience this text, as a reader?"

