

Lesson Skill: Making margin notes

Strand Reading—fiction

SOL 9.4
10.4
11.4
12.4

Materials

- Copies of the attached Fiction Margin Notes worksheet
- A variety of fiction from all genres

Lesson

1. Review before-, during-, and after-reading strategies with students.
2. Model use of the Fiction Margin Notes worksheet by folding the sheet along the vertical lines and placing the first column alongside a page of text. Write the page number at the top of the column, and then read the page of text, writing information in the appropriate blocks as you read. When finished with that page, proceed to the next page of text, and repeat the process with the second column folded to fit alongside the page. Then, repeat the process with the next page of text. This can be demonstrated using an overhead, a computer projection system, or simply a book and the sheet of paper.
3. Have students work in pairs to practice using the Fiction Margin Notes worksheet. Have partners take turns reading passages of a given text aloud and simultaneously making notes. Encourage partners to discuss the margin notes they are writing.
4. Have two student pairs join together and compare notes, discussing the accuracy and completeness of the notes. Then have “student squares” (four students) fill in an accurate and complete column(s) of notes.
5. Have students continue the reading and note-taking process individually, completing a column per page of reading. Stress the importance of accuracy and completeness.
6. When students have finished the entire text, have them complete a story map and/or writing based on the reading and their notes taken during reading.
7. At each step of the process, allow time for students to ask questions to clarify what they do not understand.

Fiction Margin Notes

Page no. _____	Page no. _____	Page no. _____
Setting:	Setting:	Setting:
Characters:	Characters:	Characters:
Events:	Events:	Events:
Foreshadowing:	Foreshadowing:	Foreshadowing:
Evidence of Theme:	Evidence of Theme:	Evidence of Theme:
Prediction:	Prediction:	Prediction: