

Grade 2 Think Aloud: Octopus

Initial Introductory Think Aloud:

I just finished reading the articles. There were a few words I couldn't read but I used some strategies like sounding them out or skipping the word and then rereading the sentence. I also used my close reading strategies. Let's use POW to get started with writing now.

P is for pull apart prompt and pick my ideas. I'll write it on my page. OK so what is the prompt? What do I have to do? Oh yes. I have to figure out how the octopus protects itself. Let me read it twice so I am sure to understand it. Re-reading the prompt is so important so I'm sure to answer the right question! My goal is to analyze the prompt really carefully and make sure I understand what I'm being asked to do since last time I had difficulty with that part.

What next? What kind of writing should I do? Hmm well this would be the informative/explanatory kind of writing. So I will use TIDE because that helps me do this kind of writing. I'll write TIDE down the side of my page. TIDE reminds me to write a topic statement important details and an ending.

What's the first thing I need to do? T is topic sentence. I know that I can't write the question. I have to restate it in my own words.

WOW. I wonder if an octopus ever ate a person. No... I have to stay on topic and think about the prompt. OK. So next is ID. I is for the important and D is for details.

What should I do now? I think I'll find one fact about the octopus and how it lives and how it protects itself. I'll reread the octopus first to see where it lives. I see that it lives in the ocean. How does it protect itself? Let me think. What about tentacles. Yes... an octopus can lose a tentacle but grow it back. This helps it survive. Now I need more facts. This is even harder but I can stay focused and do it. I'll try more self-talk: You can do it!

It said that an octopus is a strong swimmer. What about food? What do they eat? It says that the octopus eats crabs and crayfish. Does that help them protect themselves? Let me stay focused on the prompt. One more idea. I can do this! Very interesting. It says that octopuses are very smart and have a good memory. That helps them.

Finally, I'm almost done. Did I use transition words? Yes, I used first, next, last. I have the T,I,D. Now all I need the E. E is for ending. WOW! TIDE and POW helped me a lot. Writing is so much easier now that I use these, and so much more fun!

Regular Ongoing, Daily Think Alouds:

OK last time I wrote, I forgot to use short phrases or just triggers when I plan. Instead I wrote long phrases and sentences. Argh, it took forever. And then when I peer scored, I saw that a boy in my class only used just one word to hold his thoughts on paper. Can you believe it? Just one word for each part of TIDE! And he got a perfect score. He did so much less work when he planned and was done so quick. I felt really jealous! Then I realized I could do less writing when I plan too! So today I'm all set to use short phrases. Let's see if I can use one word too!