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Pocket Chart Activities

Prepare a pocket chart for sorting and using the vocabulary cards, the story question cards, and the sentence strips.

How to Make a Pocket Chart

If a commercial pocket chart is unavailable, you can make a pocket chart if you have access to a laminator. Begin by laminating a 24" x 36" (60 cm x 90 cm) piece of colored tagboard. Run about 20" (50 cm) of additional plastic. To make nine pockets, cut the clear plastic into nine equal strips. Space the strips equally down the 36" (90 cm) length of the tagboard. Attach each strip with cellophane tape along the bottom and sides. This will hold sentence strips, word cards, and so forth. The chart can be displayed in a learning center or mounted on a chalk tray for use with a group. When your pocket chart is ready, use it to display the sentence strips, vocabulary words, and question cards. A sample chart is provided below.

 taunted	 modern	 tenement	 Russia	 Cossack	 ignorant
Molly wanted to leave Winter Hill because the other children in her class made fun of her.					 Knowledge
Her family could not go back to New York. They had lived in a tenement there. Her father had a better job in Winter Hill.					 Comprehension
Molly's family could not get back to Russia. The Cossacks had burned their synagogue.					 Application
Molly tried to make the best of things.					 Analysis
Miss Stickley asked the children to make clothespin dolls.					 Synthesis

How to Use the Pocket Chart

1. On blue construction or index paper, reproduce the pumpkin and doll patterns on page 14. Make vocabulary cards as directed on page 6. (You may wish to include the chapter in which the word appears.) To familiarize the children with difficult words and their meanings, present the vocabulary cards for each chapter before reading the corresponding chapters. Help students understand the word meanings by providing context clues.

The patterns can also be used to make "Amazing Author," "Wonderful Work," "Great Reader," and other appropriate awards or incentives.

Pocket Chart Activities *(cont.)*

How to Use the Pocket Chart (cont.)

2. Reproduce several copies of the doll pattern (page 14) on six different colors of construction paper. Use a different paper color to represent each of Bloom's Levels of Learning.

For example:

- I. Knowledge (green)
- II. Comprehension (pink)
- III. Application (lavender)
- IV. Analysis (orange)
- V. Synthesis (blue)
- VI. Evaluation (yellow)

Write a story question from page 15 on the appropriate color-coded doll. Write the level of the question, the question itself, and the chapter section on the body of the doll as shown in the example.

Use the doll-shaped cards after the corresponding chapters have been read to provide opportunities for the students to develop and practice higher level critical thinking skills. The cards can be used with some or all of the following activities.

- Use a specific color-coded set of cards to question students at a particular level of learning.
 - Have a student choose a card, read it aloud, or give it to the teacher to read aloud. The student answers the question or calls on a volunteer to answer it.
 - Pair the students. The teacher reads a question. The students take turns with their partners responding to the question.
 - Play a game. Divide the class into teams. Ask for a response to a question written on one of the question cards. The teams score a point for each appropriate response. If question cards have been prepared for several different stories, mix up the cards and ask the team members to respond by naming the story that relates to the question. Extra points can be awarded if a team member answers the question as well.
3. Use the sentence strips to practice oral reading and sequencing of the story events. Reproduce page 16. If possible, laminate the sentence strips for durability. Cut out the sentence strips or prepare sentences of your own to use with the pocket chart.

