

Three Level Guide

Purpose:

To provide a scaffold from which students can interact with difficult texts at different levels.

To stimulate an active response to meaning at the literal, interpretive, and applied levels.

To help students develop a good sense of the conceptual complexity of text material.

Procedure:

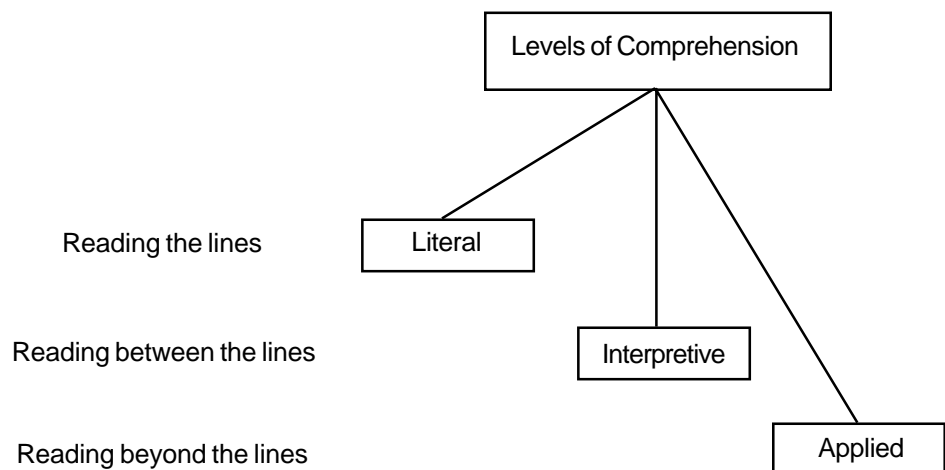
The three level guide is a pre/post reading activity that gives students the opportunity to evaluate information at the literal, interpretive and applied levels based on a reading selection.

Steps for construction:

1. Begin constructing the guide at level II, the interpretive level. As you read the selection, write down all inferences that make sense and that fit your objectives. Write these inferences as statements that are simple and clear.
2. For level I find the pieces of information that support the inferences you have chosen and write them as statements.
3. If desired, add a distractor or two to levels I and II.
4. Level III, the applied level, contains statements that represent insights or principles that can be drawn when relationships established by the author are combined with other ideas outside the text selection.

Students should preview the guide before reading the text selection. After reading the selection they can work in groups to decide which statements accurately reflect the meaning of the selection and why. Students can then discuss their answers as a whole group.

The three level guide should be used with difficult material but not everyday. The guide should also not be used as a test.



Adapted from Content Area Reading: Literacy and Learning Across the Curriculum by Richard T. and Joanne L. Vacca