

Books Are Magic.

Read to Me...

Time... That's always the constraint that gets in the way as we do our best to meet the needs of our students. We can't make more time appear magically in our day, or can we?

VTS uses artwork to help students make meaning and to think about how to support their thoughts. Picture books are already a part of many of our reading blocks as a class read aloud. Could you make a slight alteration to your read aloud approach to encourage the same type of thinking as students produce during VTS sessions?

Your read aloud structure lends itself to the types of discussions we have in VTS. You preview the book, often showing the cover. You pause to discuss parts in the story, sometimes even helping students to notice foreshadowing in the illustration. Rather than just taking a picture walk, consider using the VTS questions to stimulate student thinking and require students to use what they see in the illustration as evidence of their predictions. For other ideas, look below.

As Bell Ringer:

Display an illustration from an upcoming read aloud. Allow students to respond on sticky notes to the VTS questions. Revisit their ideas as part of the read aloud preview.

In Writing:

Show the illustrations from a future read aloud. Discuss the VTS questions in small groups for those images. Allow students to write their own story based on the illustrations.

Beyond ELA:

Find a picture book connecting to a science / social studies standard. Illustrations or text features can drive discussion about that standard to activate schema.

"As educators, we have the incredible privilege of having high-quality artwork at our fingertips through children's picture books....By continuing to use the VTS protocol within picture books, we can continue to give our students quality interactive read-alouds and allow our students to gain access to art without replacing our ELA blocks. Students can begin to wander through the illustrations while expanding their schema of the topic."

(Bishop, K. 2021. How Artwork Changed My Classroom. Site Specific. [https://vtshome.org/2021/10/01/how-artwork-changed-my-classroom/.](https://vtshome.org/2021/10/01/how-artwork-changed-my-classroom/))



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