Directed Reading and Thinking Activity

(DRTA)

**Materials:**

* Copies of Cornell Notes (Tools for Thought) ~ Set up teacher model with headers and guiding information
* Copies of a short text (short story)

**Activities:**

1. Have students, after skimming the text, makes some predictions about its meaning, main ideas, or other information. this means looking at the headings, graphics, images, tables, maps, vocabulary, and pull out quotes to activate schema and orient their mind to this particular text.
2. Give students copies of the Cornell Notes template and have them take notes under three headers: **Preview, Notes, and Review**. *All predictions and initial questions should be written down under Preview.*

Use the following questions to guide students’ information in the Preview section:

* What do you think a story with this title might be about?
* What do you expect to happen in this story?
* What questions do you have concerning what you think this story will be about?
1. As students read the text, have them take notes, noting down any examples or other details that support their initial predictions or provide evidence that demands they revise those predictions. All evidence and examples should be listed under the *Notes* header.
2. When students are done reading, ask them to review their notes and the text, and then write a summary of the text under the *Review* heading on their Cornell sheet. This synopsis should be in their own words and should include examples from the text that support their conclusions.
3. Pair students up and have them discuss their predictions, assumptions and means they arrived at their conclusions.