

Using Visual Image to Enhance Understanding of Texts



Purpose: Psychologists have found that different parts of our brains “wake up” when we work with visual images and colors rather than words written on a page, or sounds voiced during a discussion. In an effort to “wake up,” or engage, the part of our brain that interprets visually, we will work on analyzing the text starting with image and color. By starting with image and color, you may discover new interpretations of the text, interpretation that the verbal side of your brain might not have discovered.

Directions:

- **Visual Interpretation:** As you read “School Days of an Indian Girl,” find a passage that you find compelling or that you have an emotion reaction to. Then visually represent that passage or quote on paper. You may use color, image, or shape, *but not words or numbers* in your visual representation. Visual representations can be abstract or more concrete. It is up to you. You also may draw your image or put together a collage using existing images from magazines, etc. Everything in your picture needs to add to the larger meaning you got from the passage in the text. In other words, *the way you draw your passage/quote should represent your interpretation of it as based in the text.*
- **Written Interpretation:** Use the collage/picture as a way of working backward into a written interpretation of the passage or quote you chose. As you write, you will be analyzing your picture and thus the meaning of your passage/quote. Answer the following questions in your written analysis.
 1. **Describe:** Briefly describe your drawing/collage. What passage or quote does it represent?
 2. **Analyze:** Discuss what prompted you to draw the picture the way you did. Use the details from your drawing/collage to support your interpretation of the passage or quote. Explain what your use of certain colors, white space, sizes, images, etc. mean and how they illuminate the full identity of the text you chose to visually represent. In this way, you’ll be analyzing the text and supporting that analysis with details from your picture.