

The Shared Inquiry™ Sequence of Activities

Prereading (5–10 minutes)

Students briefly explore a concept relevant to the text they will be reading.

Student Learning Objective: To activate and build background knowledge related to a text

Key Shared Inquiry Concept: Thinking about what we already know helps us get ready to read.

First Reading (25–40 minutes)

Students listen as the text is read aloud, marking questions and/or reactions.

Student Learning Objective: To ask questions and use other reading strategies to improve understanding of a text

Key Shared Inquiry Concept: Reading a text once is just the first step in understanding it.

Sharing Questions (10–25 minutes)

Students share different types of questions about what they just read.

Student Learning Objective: To ask questions arising from a text and identify whether they need to be answered right away

Key Shared Inquiry Concept: Asking and addressing questions are essential strategies for understanding a text.

Second Reading (25–45 minutes)

Students follow along as the text is reread and engage in activities that help them explore the text's meaning in more depth.

Student Learning Objective: To reread and interact with a text in order to gain a deeper understanding of it

Key Shared Inquiry Concept: Rereading is essential to understanding a rich text.

The Shared Inquiry Sequence of Activities, continued

Vocabulary (10–20 minutes)*

Students identify new vocabulary words and use context and outside sources to determine the meaning of important words.

Student Learning Objective: To understand new vocabulary in context

Key Shared Inquiry Concept: Word meaning can often be determined from context, but not all unknown words are equally important to understanding a text.

Shared Inquiry Discussion (20–45 minutes)

Students explore a text's meaning in depth by discussing interpretive questions.

Student Learning Objective: To discuss a text's meaning by sharing ideas, supporting ideas with evidence, and listening to other students' responses

Key Shared Inquiry Concept: Discussing a text with others helps us come to a deeper understanding of it.

Written or Creative Response (times vary)

Students deepen and extend their understanding of what they read through written or creative response.

Student Learning Objective: To extend learning from reading and discussion through written or creative engagement

Key Shared Inquiry Concept: There are many ways to further explore the themes and ideas in a text.

*In some Great Books K–12 programs the vocabulary activity can be found after the sharing questions activity, but it can be done at any time after the first reading.