Using Mental Imagery
(Visualizing and Verbalizing)

Visualizing is a cognitive strategy for constructing meaning during reading. It serves to connect language with our prior knowledge to form an understanding of the text. (mental model)

It is important to teach students how to **visualize** what they are reading AND to **verbalize these visualizations**.

Verbalizing includes describing the picture formed through visualizing.

Needed for Visualizing and Verbalizing:
All that is needed to teach visualization is a descriptive paragraph from a text and a question prompt to help the student form a descriptive image of the passage.

Prompts for Visualization and Verbalization

1. **What**: reflects the "main concept/idea" of the passage

2. **Size:** represents all of the characters and their relative size in comparison to each other

3. **Color:** accurately represents items in color

4. **Number:** any representation of number of things

5. **Shape:** accurately represents items by shape

6. **Where:** accurately locates where the story took place

7. **Movement:** shows any movement or transition

8. **Mood:** reflects the mood of the characters

9. **Background:** depicts any other items/objects in the scene, beyond main characters and setting

10. **Perspective:** shows some "perspective" about the passage

11. **When:** time of day or historical timeframe

12. **Sounds:** any depiction of sounds

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