

# Ag Literacy Adventure

with an Ag Teacher and an English Teacher

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**Enhance students' literacy  
skills with engaging  
strategies paired with  
thought-provoking  
agriculture texts and visuals.**





# Ag Literacy Adventure

## Adventurous Literacy Strategies

Strategy	Description	Texts to Use
My Childhood Tasted Like	Students brainstorm a list of foods from their childhood. Then, they choose one food and write about the memories surrounding it before sharing with the class.	Fiction books about holiday traditions and/or food. Some of our favorites include: <i>Fry Bread, Applesauce Day, Soul Food Sunday, Try It, Let Me Fix You a Plate.</i>
Ode to a Vegetable	Students learn about Chilean poet Pablo Neruda and his "odes" to various foods. Students then learn about assorted other poetic forms and then write poetry about their favorite vegetables. In most cases, students will also do additional research in order to complete their poems.	The poetry of Pablo Neruda, the children's picture book, <i>Ode to an Onion</i> , rhyming picture books about fruits and vegetables.
Collaborative Annotation	Students gather around one large-print copy of an engaging text and use different colored markers to annotate the text and comment on each others' written thoughts in a "silent discussion." Groups can then view the work of others before an "out loud" classroom discussion.	Poetry, excerpts from engaging fiction and nonfiction texts, thought-provoking articles, other short and engaging texts.
One Minute Write	Students read a short text and then write, non-stop, for one minute about whatever comes into their mind about the text. This leads to class discussion and further analysis.	Brief, thought-provoking fiction and nonfiction texts. Works very well with poetry.
Six Word Memoirs	Students write about something from their lives in exactly six words. Can also be adapted to characters from a book, specific careers, and more. Originally created by SMITH Magazine, more can be found at <a href="http://sixwordmemoirs.com">sixwordmemoirs.com</a> .	Creative nonfiction, fiction, traditional nonfiction texts.
Identity Webs	Students create a graphic and text model to analyze an important figure from history, character from literature, or real person in their lives.	Creative and traditional nonfiction texts about historical figures, <i>Buzzing with Questions, The Girl Who Thought in Pictures, Hero for the Hungry.</i>
Text Coding	Students use a coding system (provided by the teacher, or developed by the student) to annotate a text.	Engaging nonfiction articles and texts.



## Even More Adventurous Literacy Strategies

Strategy	Description	Texts to Use
Blackout Nonfiction Poetry	Students create poetry from a short nonfiction text by using a permanent marker to "black out" all the words they don't want to use. Then, they create a poem using the words that remain. This activity requires students to read a text closely and repeatedly. Their poems often extract the most important information from the text.	Ag Mags, excerpts from fiction or nonfiction texts.
Read with a Question in Mind	With prompting from the teacher, students develop questions about a topic prior to reading a text. Then, as they read, they read with a purpose: find answers to some of the class questions.	Engaging nonfiction articles and texts.
Alternative Perspective Writing	Students read and annotate a text, then write from the perspective of a "character" in the text. Can be easily adapted for wide variety of texts as well as writing genres.	Nonfiction and fiction texts with potential for controversy or multiple viewpoints of a situation or event.
Reading a Visual Image	Students will "read" an image closely to interpret it and create understanding. Teachers will "black out" 3/4 of the image at a time and project it while students look closely and take notes. Then, students see the full image and share their comprehension of the "text."	Content-area books, photographs, portraits, maps, or even children's picture books.
Interview an Image	Images often make a text more accessible for students. Students will look closely at an image and create questions they would ask to learn more about this image. Then, students can research the topic more to try to find answers to some of their questions.	Images from content-area books, nonfiction and creative nonfiction texts, photographs, paintings.
Two-Column Notes	Asking students to take notes increases attention and engagement with a wide assortment of texts. Headings can be customized depending on the "text" being used. Most versions include "Information" in the first column and some form of "Reactions" in the second column.	Wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, YouTube videos, full-length films, podcast episodes.

Some Strategies Adapted from: *Texts and Lessons Series* by Harvey "Smokey" Daniels & Nancy Steineke; *Write Like This* by Kelly Gallagher; *I Can't Keep My Own Secrets: Six-Word Memoirs by Teens Famous + Obscure* edited by SMITH Magazine



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