

Planning Engaging Literacy Experiences Questions to Consider

1. Think about your class:

What learning strengths do my students bring?
What learning challenges do my students bring?
What catches my students' attention and interests ?
What energize my students?
How will I stimulate them to want to know more?

2. Think about the curriculum:

What new learning do I want my students to have?
What background knowledge and skills will my students bring to this new learning?
What background knowledge and skills will my students need to bring to this new learning in order to be successful?
What strategies will help them to achieve this new learning?
How will I know that the students have successfully learned?

3. Think about the literacy experience:

What would I like the students to do?
How will the students work? (alone, in partners, in small groups or as a whole class)
What will I be doing as the students work? (observing, listening, giving further directions, teaching new skills, monitoring progress, side-coaching, demonstrating, facilitating, challenging assumptions)
How will I ensure that the groups function effectively?
What rules and expectations should I remind them of?

4. Think about the lesson:

Did I use the right teaching strategy?
Did I use the right teaching strategy at the right time?
What other strategies might have worked better?
Did the students have enough knowledge and experience to do the work successfully?
What further work do we need to do so that students can understand the material better?
How can I support my students' desire to know more?
How can I encourage my students to ask more probing questions?
What authentic tasks can I set up to extend student learning?