

Metacognitive Markers

“Thinking Notes”

- ✧ Using a pen or pencil, use the “Thinking Notes” strategy as you read an article
- ✧ Mark phrases, sentences, or paragraphs with the following “markers”:



* Main idea- central to author’s purpose

! I Love this part! Great writing

? Raises a question- possible discussion point

?? Something is unclear or confusing

This strategy is helpful when dealing with close reading tasks. Metacognitive markers or, as a more kid-friendly term, thinking notes, changes what you might see in a typical text. Usually students underline or highlight information they believe to be important, but if they’re not tracking their own response to the text, what they are doing is just sort of saying over and over again, this is important.

When we use “thinking notes, what we try to do is say “why did you pick those particular elements and what was your reaction to them”?

For a student, it becomes a helpful way of remembering, over a period of time, how they reacted to a text.

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“With this [strategy], instead of just saying I highlighted it, I’m not sure why, I can quickly say, okay, who’s got something that they thought raised an interesting question. And we can move to some really specific conversation prompts.” -- TJ HANIFY, TEACHER