

The Cricket in Times Square

Standard

Apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. Draw on prior experience, interactions with other readers and writers, knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, word identification strategies, and understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).

Objective

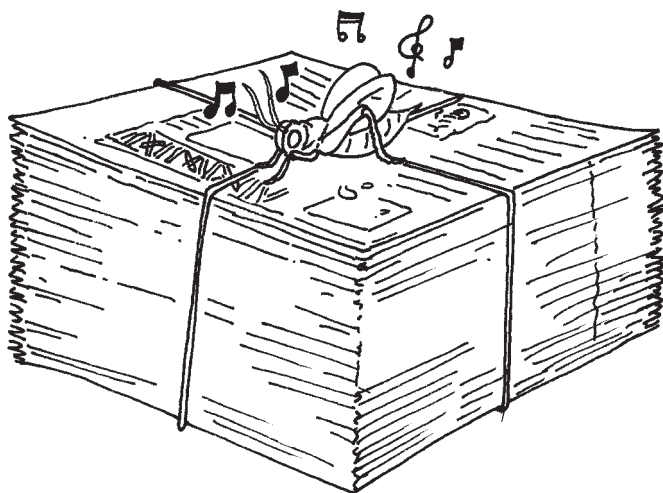
Students will use a cubing technique to select a method to respond to literature.

Materials

Cricket Questions Cube reproducible
multiple copies of *The Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden
heavy paper
tape or glue
scissors

Give students the opportunity to use and share what they have learned as they read the classic story *The Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden. Cubing activities provide students with opportunities for success using problem-solving and thinking skills.

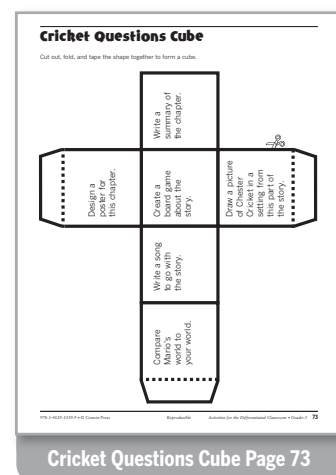
1. In this variation on a cubing activity, students will toss a cube to select a method of responding to what they have read. Choose a focus chapter, or have students choose a chapter on their own.
2. Copy the **Cricket Questions Cube reproducible (page 73)** onto heavy paper, and cut it out. Fold the squares to form a cube. Tape or glue the



Strategies

Cubing

Multiple intelligences



tabs in place. Make as many cubes as needed to accommodate your class. Have each student or group of students roll the cube to choose an activity to complete.

- **Write** a summary of the chapter.
- **Draw** a picture of Chester Cricket in a setting from this part of the story.
- **Create** a board game about the story.
- **Design** a poster for this chapter.
- **Write** a song to go with the story.
- **Compare** Mario's world to your world.

3. This cubing activity accommodates a variety of learning styles. Use it repeatedly with other chapters from the book. Establish a rule that students must roll the cube until they get a different prompt from the previous roll.

Ideas for More Differentiation

Create activity lists that address specific learning styles. Write and number each idea on a chart. Have students roll a die. The number on the die corresponds to a numbered activity on the list.

Make a list of movement activities for bodily/kinesthetic learners:

1. Create a cricket dance.
2. Role-play a scene from the chapter.
3. Make a model of the newsstand or another place in the story.
4. Create a party for Chester and his friends.
5. Act out a scene that takes place after the end of the story.
6. Create an outdoor game based on the story.

Make a list of drawing/design activities for visual/spatial learners:

1. Design a cover for the book.
2. Make a collage about the story.
3. Create a banner for the newsstand.
4. Design a newspaper ad for Chester's concert.
5. Draw a picture or make a model of Grand Central Station.
6. Create a travel poster for New York or Chinatown.

Cricket Questions Cube

Cut out, fold, and tape the shape together to form a cube.

