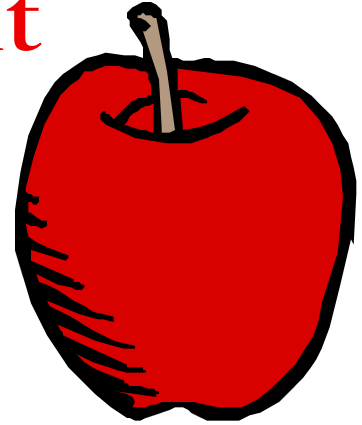


Food for Thought



**"What I think,
I can SAY,
What I say,
I can WRITE,
What I write,
I can READ,
What I read,
Makes me THINK!"**

I am not sure where this quote is from, but it should make us stop and think about how connected the reading and writing process is in our classrooms--even if we approach it differently! I want to encourage you to stop and think about how connected you make it in your classroom. Reconsider the quote along with the following questions:

What I think, I can say:

- Do I provide ample "think time" for my students?
- In what ways do I encourage them to think on their own?
- Do I encourage my students to share in literacy conversations with each other?
- Do my students know that I value their thinking even if it is different than my own?

What I say, I can write:

- Are my students able to self-select topics regularly in the writing workshop?
- Do we talk about books from a writer's perspective?
- Do I allow students to try out different author's styles in their own writing?
- Am I modeling and sharing my own writing with my students?

What I write, I can read:

- Do my students have plenty of time to read their own writing?
- Do they read other student's writing regularly?
- Do I provide ample time for them to go back and revisit their writing at another time?
- Do we discuss author's style, voice, and craft using familiar books?
- Are we engaged in sustained silent reading on a regular basis?

What I read, makes me THINK!

- Is my talk about books, interrogation or conversation?
- Are my children aware of what books make them think, feel and/or remember?
- Am I immersing my students in good literature?
- Are they making connections between their "schema" (background knowledge) and the books you read?
- Am I sharing with my students what their writing makes me THINK about?

These are the things that will lead our students to be real critical thinkers and perform well on standardized tests. Even more important is the way each component supports and facilitates the lifelong literacy that we build with them every day!

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