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Please enjoy this complimentary excerpt from *Write Now & Write On*, Grades 6-12, by Rebecca G. Harper.

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HEAR THIS!

Visualization is a major key to comprehension and understanding. For elementary students, much of what they read or come in contact with is heavily laden with images and pictures. Yet, when students get older, pictures go away and are replaced by longer paragraphs. For that student who used the images in the book to assist with their understanding of the story or text, a chapter book offers none of that security. Instead, that visual image now becomes the duty of the reader to construct. However, many students do not actively acknowledge that while they are reading they should be conjuring up an image or a moving picture in their heads of what is happening in the story. Plus, many elementary standard sets include listening and speaking components. For the listening component, strategies that allow students to focus on what they hear and create products using this information are important, yet many times, these lessons are a little more difficult to develop. Hear This is a great strategy to emphasize not only the important skill of visualization but also listening. This strategy is useful for a wide range of readiness levels and subject areas.



Books and poems that work well with this strategy:

- *Mojave, Mississippi, Heartland, and Sierra* by Dianne Siebert
- *Momma, Where Are You From?* by Marie Bradby
- *Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell
- *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson
- *The Land of Stories* series by Chris Colfer
- *Night in the Country* by Cynthia Rylant
- *See the Ocean* by Estelle Condra
- *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut* by Derrick Barnes
- *The Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña
- *Finger Paints* by Brod Bagert
- *Filling Station* by Elizabeth Bishop
- *My Papa's Waltz* by Theodore Rothke

Putting It to Work

1. Select a text that is highly descriptive. There need to be lots of descriptive details that students can include in their drawings. Use the list above as a starter.

2. Have students take out a scratch sheet of paper or provide them with a blank sheet of paper.
3. Tell students that as you read, they are to draw what they hear or what is happening in the text.
4. Read aloud from the chosen text. Do not show the students any of the pictures from the text if there are any.
5. Have students share their pictures with the class.

When to Use It

1. To pay close attention to the importance of visualization and its link to comprehension
2. As support for texts that have few or no accompanying images
3. As an arts extension for a unit or concept
4. To support students who are writing or reading below grade level or who are learning English as a new language

Why It Works

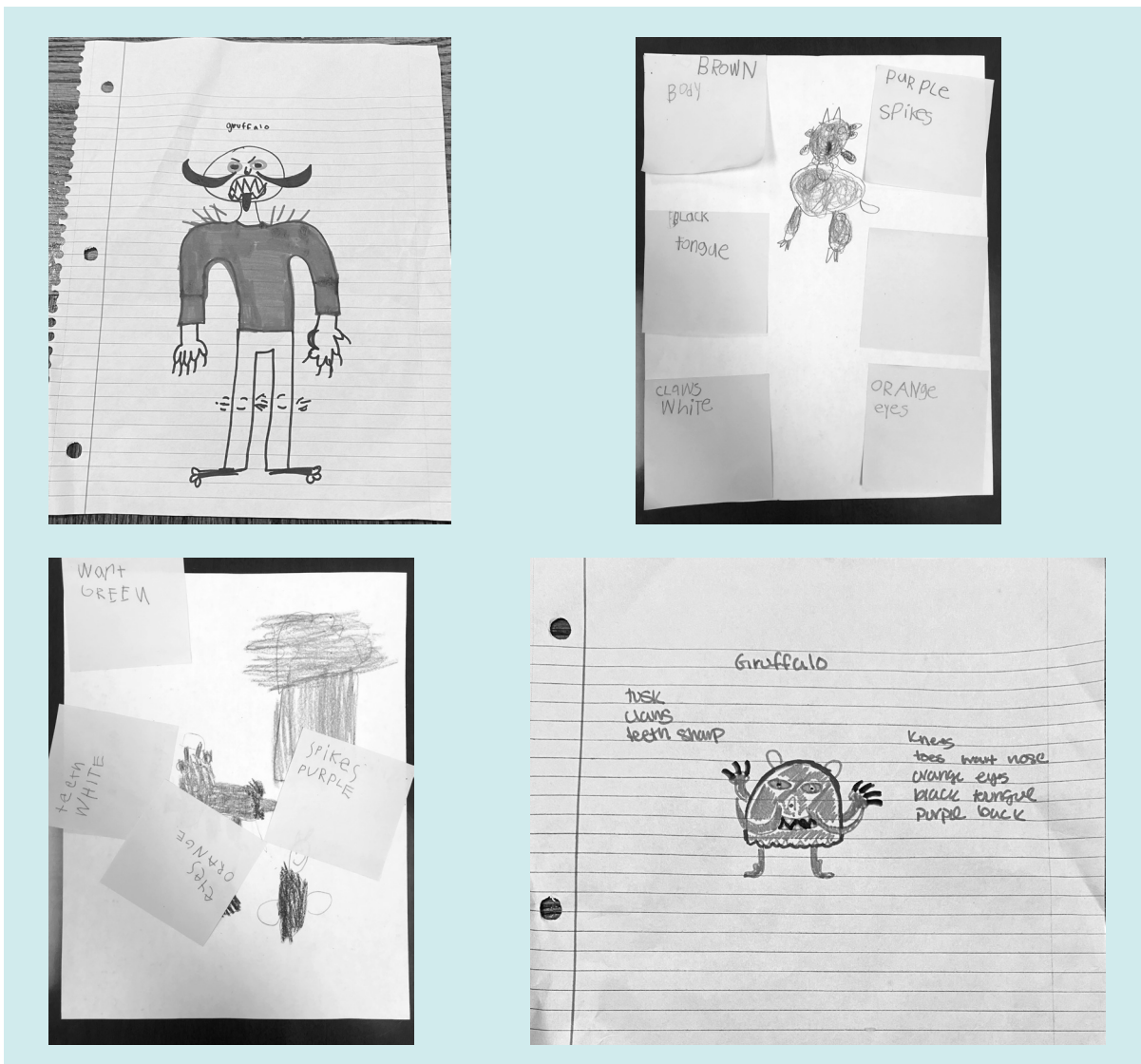
- Hear This is a low-stakes strategy that incorporates artistic components as an extension.
- Students who struggle or feel uncomfortable with writing can complete this task because no writing of words is required.
- Hear This emphasizes the need for students to visualize, which aids in improved comprehension.

Modifications

- Divide the class into groups and have some students draw pictures and others write accompanying sentences for the images.
- Instead of reading a text to the students, play music and have them draw a picture that captures the mood and tone of the music.
- Prepare images ahead of time and have students choose the images that best fit the written text being read.

Extensions

- Use the Hear This images that were created to compile a picture-only version of the written text being studied.
- Use Hear This as an opening strategy for a comic strip or graphic novel construction.
- Use Hear This as a kickoff to the Post-it Poems strategy (page 29).
- Have students incorporate textual evidence by going back to their pictures and, using address labels, include textual evidence from the story on their pictures.



Content Area Connections

- Use Hear This when studying historical battles, tracing the movement of people across time, or when studying geographic features in history.
- Have students draw supplemental images that accompany a math problem or real-world math scenario.
- In science, have students draw an animal's habitat or home based on readings.
- Use Hear This with old radio show clips for students to draw the characters, setting, and problem.

