

4th Grade

Fog

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Close Reading Strategy with: “Fog” by Carl Sandburg

1st Reading: Hand out text. Explain what we’re doing and why. Even though this is short, it is a complex/deep text. Your teacher is going to be doing this with you all year in all different kinds of text. What kind of text is this? (poetry/literature). Discuss that good readers re-read.

Read a few times. Underline things that confuse you. Do a quick write on what you think this poem is about. (Explain quick write)

(Me: observe students. Are they writing much? What are they writing? Are they underlining anything?)

5-7 minutes.

1st Discussion: Partner talk. Share your quick writes with each other. Use words from the text to explain your thinking to your partner. Share with each other the things you underlined.

(Me: Walk around and listen in. On task? Misconceptions? Using text evidence?)

5 minutes

2nd Discussion: Share out. Observe level of engagement, judge level of students’ understanding of the poem. Are there misconceptions?

5 minutes.

2nd Reading: I will read. Think aloud about fog, cat feet, “It,” harbor, haunches and silent haunches, moves on.

5-7 minutes

3rd Discussion: Start with telling students that they will need to answer with text evidence. Which city? Does it matter? Could this have a deeper meaning?

1. What is this poem trying to describe? (prompt student to give text evidence in answer). **(General Understandings—Explicit).**
2. What does the author compare the fog to? **(Key Details—Explicit).**
3. Why do you think the author compares the fog to a cat? **(Author’s Purpose).**
4. If the author said, “the fog is like a cat” do you know what that is called? Because the author does not say like or as but still makes this comparison throughout the poem, do you know what that is called? **(Vocab & Text Structure)**
5. What are haunches? **(Vocab & Text Structure)**
6. Why did the author choose haunches instead of another part of the cat? **(Author’s Purpose)**

7. Why do you think the author wrote this poem? (**Author's Purpose**)
8. Do you think this poem could have a deeper meaning than just describing the weather? (**Inferences**)

10 minutes

Journal Writing: Explain how Carl Sandburg compares fog to a cat, using at least two details from the text. Tell whether or not you think this comparison works or not, explaining why you think this.

10 minutes

Fog

BY CARL SANDBURG

THE fog comes
on little cat feet.

It sits looking
over harbor and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.