Handouts for Master Minds: The Impact of Executive Function Skills on Reading and Writing

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Planning

Before Reading: The 5 Ps

Purpose
Preview
Prior Knowledge
Picture
Predict

During Reading: PAGES
P – Pause and Picture
A – Ask Questions
G - Go Back or Go Forward
E – Explore
S - Summarize

PAGES

Use this strategy when reading or listening to something read aloud.

Picture – Pause after a period, a paragraph, or a page of text and try to form a mental picture of what you have just read.

Ask – There are many questions you might ask about what you have read, but the first and most important two are, "Was I able to form a picture?" and "Does that picture make sense?" You may also ask clarification questions and questions about Who is Doing What? Also, ask yourself if there are words that you don't know or that don't make sense.

Go Back or Go Forward – Do you need to go back and reread what you just read? Sometimes you need to keep moving forward. A confusing word or reference may become clearer in the next sentence, or when you finish the sentence you are reading.

Explore words - Are there unfamiliar terms that are explained in the context or that need to be looked up in the dictionary?

Summarize – Once the above steps have been taken, put the information into your own words. If you are not ready to summarize, you may need to go back and explore some of the steps again.

From the Hank the *Tank Activity Book* – Level 2 of the HOT ROD Series by Carolee Dean
(Higher Order Thinking Through the Reading of Decodables.)
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WHAT ARE EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS: A set of mental skills we use to manage our thoughts, feelings, & behaviors to complete tasks and achieve goals more efficiently

Russel Barkley: Self-Awareness, Inhibition, Non-Verbal Working Memory, Verbal Working Memory, Emotional Self-Regulation, Self-Motivation, Planning and Problem Solving

Executive Functions
from *Executive Skills and Reading Comprehension* – Kelly B. Cartwright: Planning, Organization, Working Memory, Cognitive Flexibility, Inhibition, Social Understanding.

Cognitive Flexibility is Important for Reading
Cognitive flexibility is a skill necessary for students to:

- comprehend the meaning of a sentence while decoding the words
- understand (and switch between) multiple word meanings
- switch between the different sounds a letter can represent while recalling the different contexts in which a letter makes those sounds.

Students must employ cognitive flexibility and a "mind" set for variability to be able to switch between the various pronunciations to read these words correctly. (Venezky, 1999; Gibson & Levin, 1975; Zipke, 2016).

Hercules - Her - Heracles - Herring - Hero - Here

R-Controlled	Closed due to VRV	Closed due to VRR	Open	Silent e	Vowel Team
bark burn burst carb charge cord dirt far first garb girl her hard part shirt star sport thirst torch turn twirl	cherish Hera merit paralyze peril perish spirit very chariot Heracles	err arrow borrow carrot carry current errand herring narrow sorry	hero irate siren tyrant zero Ironic Chimera	bare dire fire here pure entire figure require	bear cheer fear gear hear lair sneer year poor

the story. Compare performance.

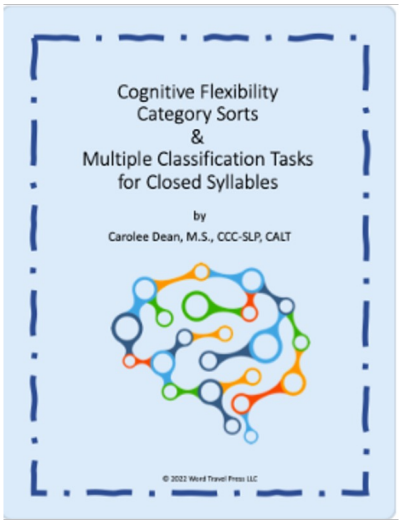
Open Y / ī / (fly, python)	VCe Y / ī / (type)	Closed Y / ĭ / (gym)	Open Y / ē / (penny)	Vowel Team /oi/, /ā/ (boy, play)
by fly my sky spy try why tyrant cycle	hype lyre style type analyze neophyte paralyze	cyst gym lynx myth nymph physics symbol symptom system	harpy murky nasty quickly slimy scaly smelly story simply tiny	day play pay may okay say stay stray way

Cognitive Flexibility

Free Digital Boom Cards with 1 word set (12 words) may be played on any device. Sign up for a Free Boom account. Closed vowels and digraphs CH & SH and Foods & Actions

CF Boom Cards

Web page on Cognitive Flexibility with a link to a free 38-page downloadable PDF with 8 different words sets for Closed Vowel Sounds.



Web Page with PDF

To have a context to work on the next set of activities, sign up for my newsletter to get a free PDF of my Decodable Picture Book, *No Gift for Man: A Greek Myth Retold*. It is also the first chapter of my book for older readers, *Gods and Gifts: Three Greek Myths Retold*.

Newsletter Sign Up

1. Sorting– By syllable types or features
2. Classifying - Multiple classification task
3. Whack-A-Mole - Impulse Control https://wordwall.net/resource/35062922/complete-sentences
4. Rhyme Time - https://wordtravelpress.com/cor-instruction/
5. Switching – During drills, switch the task midstream.
6. Spinner Games – Find an example at https://wordwall.net/resource/36796562

Story Frames (Basic Version) – THE CREATION OF MAN by Carolee Dean

Ordinary World	Call & Response	Problem & Prize	Plan
The war between the Titans and the Olympians ended and Zeus was getting a little bored.	Zeus asked Prometheus and his brother, Epimetheus, to fill the world with living creatures. They agreed to take on the task.	Epimetheus gave away all the gifts to the animals and there was nothing left for man.	Prometheus wanted something special for mankind, so he planned to steal fire from Mount Olympus.
Attempt or Event	**Attempt or Event**	**Climax**	**Reward**
Prometheus took a small bit of fire from Mount Olympus and hid it in a plant. He shared the gift of fire with humans. They could keep warm and heat their food.	Zeus chained Prometheus to a rock as punishment for stealing fire. Then the gods got revenge on mankind by making Pandora and giving her to Epimetheus as a bride.	As a wedding gift, the gods gave Pandora a box and told her never to open it. When she finally did, all sorts of evil things came out like war, disease, and sickness.	The last "gift" in the box was hope. It kept mankind going in spite of the evils that came out of the box. Eventually, Heracles freed Prometheus.
Vocabulary	**People & Places**	**Conjunctions**	**Transitions**
forethought afterthought create present gift fragment indignant antagonistic punishment revenge splendid tempest	Epimetheus (ĕp-ə-MĒ-thē-əs) Olympus (ō-LĬM-pəs) Olympians (ō-LĬM-pē-ənz) Pandora (pan-DOR-ə) Prometheus (prō-MĒ-thē-əs) Titans (TĪ-tənz) Vulcan (VUL-kən) Zeus (zūs)	and but yet or so then because when although before after unless while where even if	first next last in addition as a result eventually consequently surprisingly finally

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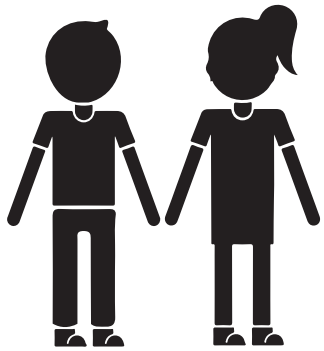
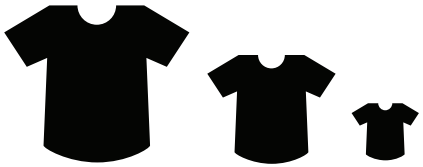
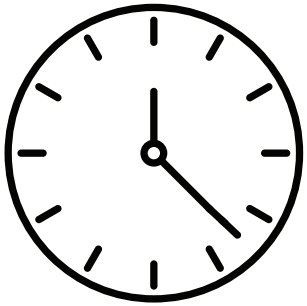
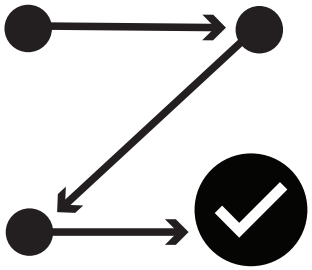
"WHO" questions ask about a person or character.	"WHAT" questions sometimes ask about things.	"WHAT" questions sometimes ask about actions.	"WHERE" questions ask about places or locations.
			
"WHICH" questions ask us to describe people, places, or things.	"WHEN" questions ask about a period of time.	"HOW" questions ask us to describe actions.	"WHY" questions ask us to give reasons.
			

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In *Story Frames for Teaching Literacy: Enhancing Student Learning Through the Power of Storytelling,* by Carolee Dean.
(2021; Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., Inc.)

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