

**Strategy: Create Mental Images**

**Book: Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky**

**Author: Faith Ringgold**


**Setting: Read Aloud**

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| Strategy<br>Definition:<br>(post in<br>classroom)            | Visual imagery is a strategy for creating mental movies in your mind. Students visualize the scenery, characters, and actions and describe the scene in their minds. It is like having a mental conversation with yourself in pictures and sounds. It is helpful to have the students close their eyes to get a better mental picture. Visualizing personalizes the story for the students and enhances their understanding to better comprehend the true meaning of the text.  |
| Standard:  | The International Reading Association and the National Council of Teachers of English published Standards for the English Language Arts.<br>3. Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g. sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).   |
| Objective:   | Students will create a mental image in their mind and record in words or pictures the image on the orange sticky note provided in the Reader's Toolkit.   |
| Materials:   | <i>Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky</i> by Faith Ringgold, Reader's Toolkit, Create Mental Images sticky notes, page 11 in Teacher's Guide/Activity Book for each student.  |
| Connect:<br><br>Before Reading<br><br>Establish a<br>Purpose | <b>K W L on Slavery/Underground Railroad</b><br><b>Add a new question under the "K" category: What do you know about the Underground Railroad?</b><br><b>Ask the students to write on their blue Make Connections sticky note what they know about the Underground Railroad. Share and post sticky notes. Next, ask the students to write "What they want to know" about the Underground Railroad. Share and post sticky notes.</b><br>Mini Lesson: See page 9 in Teacher's Guide/Activity Book for Create Mental Images mini lesson.<br>The <b>purpose</b> of this strategy lesson is for the students to visualize the sequence of events in the story and draw the sequence of events that Cassie went through to escape from slavery through the Underground Railroad.<br>Introduce book <i>Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky</i> to the students. Read the title and have the students predict what the story is going to be about. Read the first page of the story. Explain what a "birds eye" view would look like for BeBe and his sister. Ask the students to close their eyes and picture mountains that look like rock |

candy and oceans like tiny cups of tea.  
Vocabulary: ramshackled (ramshackled train)  
Ask the students to **draw a picture** on their orange sticky note of a ramshackled train, mountains like pieces of rock candy and oceans like tiny cups of tea. Post sticky notes on their activity page 11.

Model:

During Reading

**Reader's Toolkit**  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Story: Aunt Harriets Underground Railroad  
In the sky


### Create Mental Images

From the story, describe the pictures you see in your mind on an orange sticky note.  
Add details about the colors, sounds and smells.

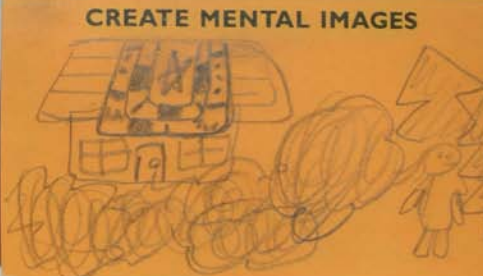
Place orange sticky note here

Place orange sticky note here


**CREATE MENTAL IMAGES**



**CREATE MENTAL IMAGES**



Draw a picture of your favorite part of the story



Freedom

Niagra Falls

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|  | Continue reading the story. After every two pages, ask the students to close their eyes and visualize the story. At an appropriate stopping point, ask the students to draw what they visualize on their orange create mental image sticky note.  |
| <p><b>Check for Understanding:</b></p> <p><b>After Reading</b></p> | <p>At the end of the story, ask the students to draw their favorite part of the story on page 11. (see above). To connect reading and writing, ask the students to label their pictures.</p> <p><b>SEQUENCING ACTIVITY:</b> After the students draw their favorite part of the story, ask them to share their picture. Next, line the students up in the sequence of events in the story.</p> <p><b>K W L chart:</b> Return to the K W L <b>chart</b> and ask the students what they learned about the Underground Railroad from the story. Have the students write their responses on their yellow Author's Message sticky note. Share and post responses.</p> |
| <b>Reminder:</b>   | <b><i>Strategy instruction takes time, be consistent and supportive.</i></b>  |