

# Diving into Deep Reading

## Teaching ELLs to critically read complex texts

### [Deep reading]

is a book about teaching adolescent students to become good readers of challenging works of fiction and nonfiction they will encounter in junior high school, high school and beyond.

*Kelly Gallagher*

## ELLs

can be taught to critically analyze complex texts. The following is my adaptation of the "Deep Reading" process explained by Kelly Gallagher in his book by the same title.

## Research Says

### Challenging



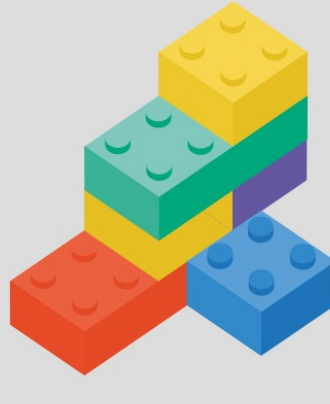
Research suggests that when ELLs are required to engage in grade-level content like reading rigorous texts, their academic language improves as well as their performance on standardized assessments (Short et al., 2011).

### Growth



Academic language grows from engaging in tasks that require students to use academic language. As students develop their language skills, their critical-thinking skills also matures (Himmele & Himmele, 2009).

### Skills



Therefore, having ELLs process challenging, grade-appropriate texts builds their language and thinking skills.

Below is the process I adapted from Gallagher's Deep Reading to meet my ELLs needs.

## 1. Setting a Context



Ask a question connected to the theme of the text.

Ex: "How should a child be disciplined?"

## 2. First Reading



Read a section of the text aloud if it is a long text or read the entire piece for shorter texts.

Then help ELLs summarize the plot.

## 3. Second Reading

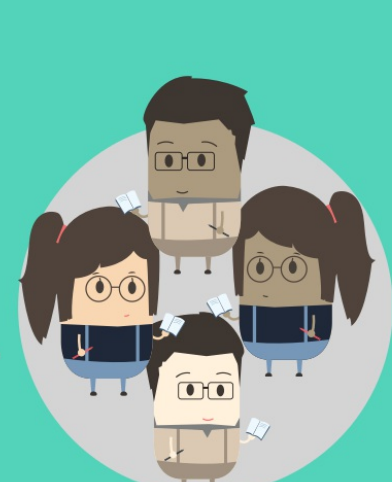


Ask the ELLs to reread the section of text you just read aloud.

Have them look for something specific such as a symbol, a particular literary device, or a concept.

## 4. Collaboration

Students then share what they found during the Second Reading in small groups to co-create meaning.



Each group then shares the best evidence with the whole class, and the class discusses which is the single, clearest evidence.

## 5. Metaphoric Responses



Ask students to create metaphor to process their insights from the discussion.

The metaphors can be connected to the theme or concepts of the unit.