**“Fish Bowl” Discussion Technique**

This is a post-reading comprehension activity that encourages

focused student discussion and assures that every student is

involved in that discussion.

1. On the day of the discussion, greet students at the door with a fish bowl or other container filled with words relating thematically to the material that has been read. Each student draws a word as he/she enters the classroom.

2. Give students 10-15 minutes to write down all the associations they can make between that word and the text.

3. The teacher randomly draws words from a duplicate set of words, and the student who originally drew that word from the fishbowl must start the discussion on how that word relates to the material read. After that, anyone can chime in with additional

ideas, examples, etc.

4. With subsequent words, encourage students to find the connections between the current word and previous ones.

5. This strategy works best with fiction, but can also be used with nonfiction if enough broad categories are available for the cards.

6. Examples of words that can be used on cards, especially for works of fiction: ambition, insanity, revenge, nature, punishment, knowledge, necessity, reason, time, loyalty, honor, truth, deception, traps, justice, betrayal, friendship, family, war, value,

perception, action, love, trust, clarity, disguise, clothing, fool, treachery, defense, protection, guidance, duty, power, pain, age, wisdom, respect, victory, impulsivity, thought, redemption.