**Snowball Summaries**

(Comprehension)

This is an after reading strategy that can be used after reading new material.

1. Each student should have one piece of paper, a pen or pencil and something to write on. If possible, have students sit in a circle.

2. Ask each student to draw two lines that divide the paper into four squares or have them fold the paper to make four squares. In one of the squares the students should write one sentence that summarizes a main idea/concept from what was just read.

3. After the students have done so, tell them you will give them two commands: “crumple” and “toss”. Explain that when you say “crumple”, they will crumple their papers into “snowballs” and when you say “toss”, they will toss the “snowballs” into the center of the circle. (If unable to have students sit in a circle, have students put their “snowballs” in a designated place.)

4. Each student retrieves or is thrown (by the teacher) a new “snowball”. Each student reads the statement already written on the paper, puts a plus or minus sign in that square to indicate whether they agree or disagree with the information, then adds a second sentence in a second square that summarizes a DIFFERENT main idea/concept from the reading.

5. Repeat the process of “crumpling”, “tossing”, receiving new “snowballs”, analyzing what is already in the squares, and adding a new statement. When students receive a filled “snowball” (all four squares have already been filled by other students”, that snowball becomes the basis for his/her final written summary of the reading.