

# Logographic Cues



## Reading Skills

- Understanding text structure
- Identifying the main idea

## Overview of the “Logographic Cues” Strategy

A logographic cue is a simple symbol or picture that acts as a visual reminder of an important literary element in a text, thereby providing a support for students as they read. While this strategy may be used before, during, or after reading, the activity below employs the strategy during the reading of *Wish You Well*. Baldacci’s use of description assists the reader in visualizing characters, setting, and motifs throughout the novel. However, a student reader might find it helpful to mark the text with symbols to remind himself/herself of the location of these elements.

## Activity for the “Logographic Cues” Strategy

1. As a means of modeling the strategy, tell the students that one of the major motifs used by Baldacci is that of the railroad. In the text, the railroad serves as a division as well as a connection between places and people.
2. Ask the students to design a cue for references to the railroad and to mark the text with this cue. (The railroad is first introduced at the beginning of chapter 4.)
3. Read aloud passages referring to the railroad, and point out the importance of this motif in determining one of Baldacci’s intentions in this novel.
4. For individual practice, ask the students to design their own logographic cue for Baldacci’s descriptions of Virginia.
5. Invite the students to mark the text with this cue each time they read a passage that describes some aspect of the Virginia setting of the novel.
6. Divide students into small groups, and have the groups discuss the passages they have marked with logographic cues for the Virginia setting. Be sure that the students discuss the importance of setting in each passage.
7. In a whole-class discussion, ask the groups to share their determinations of the importance of setting, and determine if similarities of importance of setting exist among the student groups.

## Assessment

As a concluding activity, ask the students to write an essay in which they discuss the importance of the railroad in the conflict of the novel or the importance of setting in determining theme. Use the following rubric to assess the essays.

## Argumentative Writing: Analytic Rubric

**Standard:** To convince a reader to consider an opinion.

**Scoring Guide:** Each category is rated 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)

**Statement of Opinion** \_\_\_\_\_ of 5

- States opinion in the first paragraph
- Asserts an arguable position
- Provides a clear, specific, and elaborated focus for the essay

**Arguments and Explanations** \_\_\_\_\_ of 5

- Supports opinion with clear and compelling reasons
- Provides detailed, specific explanations of reasons

**Opposing Point of View** \_\_\_\_\_ of 5

- Acknowledges other point(s) of view
- Addresses and refutes arguments in other point(s) of view

**Tone** \_\_\_\_\_ of 5

- Chooses precise and appropriate words
- Reflects awareness of audience through use of appropriate voice

**Language Control** \_\_\_\_\_ of 5

- Makes few or no errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_ of 25