

Predicting the Outcomes



Reading Skills

- Making predictions
- Making connections
- Making inferences
- Determining cause and effect

Overview of the “Predicting the Outcomes” Strategy

“Predicting the Outcomes” is a strategy that allows students to “stop,” “drop,” and “roll.” Students are encouraged to stop where they are, drop the novel (close the book momentarily), and roll all of the information they have into a prediction of what will happen in the coming chapters. This activity should reoccur during the reading of the novel and is effective throughout to determine the comprehension of the students.

Activity for the “Predicting the Outcomes” Strategy

Several questions have been provided to guide students in predicting what may happen next in the novel. The strategy can be applied to any character at any point in the reading of the book.

1. Have the students read up to chapter 20 and answer the following questions about Diamond:
 - Is Diamond always very vague about his personal life?
 - What do you believe has happened to his family?
 - Who is responsible for his care?
 - Is Diamond responsible for the mishaps that have been occurring in the next town?
 - What will happen to Diamond?
2. Have each student use information from chapters 6 through 20 to predict the life and fate of Diamond and write down his/her predictions.
3. In a class discussion, have the students tell what they know about Diamond.
4. Ask the students as a class to predict the future of Diamond, using the information discussed in class. Write this class prediction on the board.

Assessment

Have the students compare their individual written predictions with those of the class and rate their prediction as same, similar, or different. After the students have completed their reading of the novel, revisit this activity, and have them compare and rate their individual and class predictions with what actually happens to Diamond.