

# The Power of Visualization: A Fun Approach to Reading Comprehension

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## I. Class Sketchbook: Teacher Preparation (5 to 10 minutes)

1. Read over the text you are going to present in class. Break the text down into small components (1-3 sentences, 1- 3 lines of poetry, etc.).
2. Make sure that chunks of text are easily visualized.
  - a. If there are statistics, think of charts and graphs
  - b. If there is description, ask yourself how easy it is to visualize, and graphically represent the description. Reject any “bad sentences.”

### i. Bad Sentence:

*Historically, –e was a morpheme that marked the dative case.*

### ii. Good Sentences

*Today in North America and Europe we live in a highly industrialized world.*

*North America and Western Europe use about 65% of all produced energy.*

*We love our luxuries*

*We travel too much by car; we eat too much in fast-food restaurants.*

*We use too many spray-cans and produce too much garbage.*

*Because of our lifestyle, garbage dumps are full of unnecessary plastic packaging*

*In Germany, every citizen throws away about 300 to 400 kg of Garbage yearly.*

*We are dependent on nature*

*Young Germans are looking for alternatives to a society that throws too much away*

*On April 26, 1986 there was a catastrophe at the Soviet nuclear plant in Chernobyl*

## II. Class Sketchbook: Student Activity (10 to 15 minutes)

1. Students are assigned the “good sentences” and simply asked to illustrate it. They are allowed to use dictionaries and ask any questions they have about the vocabulary in their sentence(s).
2. The activity requires about 10 minutes for one drawing, 15 minutes if they have to do two.
3. RECOMMENDED: do this activity at the end of your class period. First, students apparently have no objections to staying a minute or two extra to get their drawing just how they want it. Second, it let’s you start the next class right where you left off.

## III. Class Sketchbook: Post-Activity Teacher Preparation (20-30 minutes)

1. Take all of the students’ drawings, scan them to the computer, and put their images into a PowerPoint.
  - a. Advantages of PowerPoint
    - i. you can have backgrounds that set the mood; you can also include multimedia and sound effects.
    - ii. you can upload them onto OnCourse for students to study with.
    - iii. really easy to reuse and store.
    - iv. no special materials needed: students can use their pens and pencils.
  - b. Disadvantage: it takes a bit of time to put the presentation together (there is a learning curve). You can also have students draw on transparencies if you do not want to spend as much time on preparation.

## IV. Multimedia Example: Erlkönig

*Who rides so late through windy night’s veil?*

*It is the father with child astrail.*

*He has the young one tight in his arm*

*He keeps him warm, he wards from harm.*