

## Comprehension/Knowledge Building, Grade 4-6

### Assessment

Ms. Zamora uses two types of assessment—informal and formal—to determine her students' understanding of the materials presented.

#### Informal Assessment

Throughout the prereading activities, the reading of the selection, and the discussion of the selection, Ms. Zamora continually monitors the students' understanding by paying close attention to their general comfort level and their responses. She notes the questions they ask as well as the responses they give to questions. As they read, she notes their ability to use the comprehension strategies and skills. Because students are thinking aloud, the teacher is able to truly evaluate their understanding of and ability to use strategies appropriately. It also provides teachers with some insight into what is problematic and which students are in fact monitoring their understanding and solving problems.

During Workshop, she will follow up with students who need reteaching and reinforcement. At that time she has several options at her disposal. She can:

- Reteach individuals or small groups using the **Reteach** component of the program.
- Have the students who need it reread the selection and clarify any remaining misunderstandings.
- Have the students work on related activities in their workbooks.
- Preteach students who need it in preparation for the next day's lessons.
- Give students who are doing well an extra challenge using the **Challenge** component of the program.

#### Formal Assessment

In addition to the informal assessment she does daily, Ms. Zamora also has at her disposal formal assessment pieces provided with the program. These assessments cover the skills taught in each lesson and use various standardized test formats in order to give students practice with such tests.

Together these two types of assessment provide Ms. Zamora with the information she needs to inform her instruction and individualize it to meet the needs of each of her students.