



## Literacy at Hartford Public High School

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### **Say Something** from When Kids Can't Read

Say Something is a very simple strategy that interrupts a student's reading of the text, giving her a chance to think about what she is reading. Students get into groups of two or three and take turns reading a portion of a text aloud. As they read, they occasionally pause to "say something" about what was read. They make a prediction, ask a question, clarify a confusion, comment on what's happening, or connect what's in the text to something they know. The reading partners offer a response to what was said, then a different student continues the reading until the next time they pause to say something.

#### **Rules for Say Something**

1. With your partner(s), decide who will say something first.
2. When you say something, do one or more of the following:
  - Make a prediction
  - Ask a question
  - Clarify something you had misunderstood
  - Make a comment
  - Make a connection
3. If you can't do one of these things, then you need to reread.

#### **Putting the Strategy to Work**

**First, model the strategy.** Try drafting a colleague to work with you. However, using a student will also work. Say a range of things—from asking very specific questions, such as how to say a certain word, to making connections as you discuss similar texts to clarifying something that might have been confusing in the past.

**Explain the procedure to students.** Go over the rules, which should be posted on a chart in the room. Tell students to stop after a set number of paragraphs. They must make a prediction, ask a question, clarify a misunderstanding, make a comment, or make a connection.

**The partner's job is to offer a response to what was said.** The partner should try to answer questions. Any question that can't be answered should be written down on paper so that they can be brought to the entire class.

**Dependent readers often need help in making their Say Something comments.** Poor readers often have nothing to say about what they've read. Providing students with stem starters—the beginnings of sentences—allows these students to make suitable comments.

**Students need practice using Say Something on very short texts.** Begin with just a few paragraphs. This allows students to become familiar with the strategy before they begin using it with an entire assignment.

#### **Stem Starters**

##### **Making a Prediction**

- I predict that...
- I think that...
- Since this happened..., I bet that the next thing that is going to happen will be ...
- I wonder if...

##### **Asking a Question**

- Why did...
- What would happen if ...
- What does this section about ...mean...
- Do you think that...
- I don't get this part here...

##### **Clarifying Something**

- No, I think this means...
- This part is really saying...
- Oh, I get it...
- Now I understand

##### **Making a Comment**

- This is hard because...
- This is confusing because...
- I think that...
- This is good because...

##### **Making a Connection**

- This reminds me of...
- This part is like...
- The differences are...
- This is similar to ...