

Alternative Texts

The alternative texts approach is a critical literacy strategy that teaches students to view text from multiple perspectives. Here are a couple of these approaches:

Character Substitution:

1. Students write about a portion of what they read with a character substitution, replacing an existing character with a new character of a different personality.
2. Have students write out the events as they would play out with the new character, if even a different outcome.
3. Discuss these variations as a class, and how or what changed as a result. Focus on bias, judgment, and point-of-view.

Character Perspective:

1. Have students re-write a story or portion of a story or book using another character's perspective.
2. Instruct them to reorient the facts and events to fit the desires of the new character.
3. Characters may also be students' relatives, friends, or characters from another book read previously.

Reference: Molden, K. (2007). Critical Literacy, The Right Answer for the Reading Classroom: Strategies to Move Beyond Comprehension for Reading Improvement. *Reading Improvement*, 44(1), 50-56. Retrieved from Academic Search Complete database.