

# HUGS

HUGS is an activity that is done whole group on a chart or smart board. It gives the students an opportunity to focus on the text and practice important skills like highlighting, drilling down to what's most critical, identifying key concepts, and summarizing. All these skills contribute to deepening the students' understanding of the text. Keep in mind that this is a process. It should be taught a piece at a time over several days.

In kinder and first grade text on sentence strips can be highlighted and later underlined, or unnecessary words can be cut away. Key words can be put on sticky notes.

Start with the BIG IDEA. The BIG IDEA sets the purpose for reading. Keep in mind that a question is more demanding than a statement.

**H** Highlight focusing on the main points of the text and the information that gets you to the BIG IDEA. Students as young as kinder can start learning to highlight. Think of it as a life skill. Good readers focus on what is most important in a text.

**U** Underline the most important parts of those things you highlighted. Be critical, what really is MOST important.

**G** "Gloss" the key concepts. (Glossing involves brief notation, key words, and visual references, things that will spark the learners' memory) Put the key concepts on individual postit notes. Put post it notes on the HUGS chart.

**S** Summarize the article. Focus on the big picture. What is the article really about?

After HUGS a critical question to ask is, "How did this strategy make you a better reader?"