*By constructing ‘mental pictures’ of what they are reading and closely studying text illustrations, students increase their reading comprehension*

**Materials**

1. Overhead transparencies of sample passages taken from expository or narrative texts, transparency markers
2. Student copies of practice expository or narrative passages (optional) or reading/text books

**Preparation**

1. Prepare overheads of sample expository or narrative passages

**Intervention Steps**

1. Tell students that they can remember more of what they read by:
   1. Making pictures in their mind of what they are reading
   2. Carefully studying pictures or illustrations that appear in their reading or text books
2. Using a ‘think aloud’ approach, read through a short sample narrative or expository passage. Pause at several points to tell the students what ‘mental pictures’ come to your mind as you read; ask students to describe their own mental imagery as they react to the same passage. As you come across pictures or illustrations in the passage, study them and reflect aloud on what clues they give you about the passage’s meaning
3. Read aloud from additional passages. Stop at key points in the passage and call on students to relate their mental imagery evoked by the passage or to give their interpretation of the significance of illustrations or pictures
4. When students are able to use mental imagery independently, use a prompt at the start of reading assignments to cue them to use the strategy