

Literacy Development

ZAP Activity

Teacher Notes

ZAP is an acronym for **Z**one in, **A**dd your own thoughts, and **P**ut it in your own words. This activity is designed to help students identify what they do not understand and ask questions of the text. It also helps them integrate their own ideas with those presented in the text and to synthesize information. Explain how ZAP works and what students are to do. Hand out the following page to students to guide their work.

- Z ZONE IN** – find some things that are interesting in the reading – students are to look through the reading and find things that catch their interest, then mark them on the page, however it is comfortable for them – underline, hi-light, circle.

- A ADD YOUR OWN THOUGHTS** – write on the page anything you like, don't like, don't understand, want to remember or go back to look at – this could include making margin notes, hi-lighting or underlining, using asterisks or question marks.

- P PUT IT IN YOUR OWN WORDS** – write the main ideas in your own words to remember the point of the reading. When you are finished reading – depending on the reading - this could be done in sections, on the back of each page, as a class assignment, in a journal or log book, on note cards,



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P PUT IT IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Write the main points in your own words to remember the point of the reading when you are finished reading.