

CSI: Color, Symbol, Image

What

This strategy asks students to identify and distill the essence of ideas from reading, watching or listening in non-verbal ways by using a color, symbol, or image to represent the ideas. CSI can be used to enhance comprehension of reading, watching or listening. It can also be used as a reflection about previous events or learning. It is helpful if students have had previous experience with highlighting texts for important ideas, connections, or events. The synthesis happens as students select a color, symbol, and image to represent three important ideas. This routine also facilitates the discussion of a text or event as students share their colors, symbols, and images.

Why

Good readers sometimes use nonlinguistic representations (pictures instead of words) to identify big ideas while reading. These nonlinguistic representations help readers to infer theme and that inference becomes generative knowledge they can use later to help them make decisions and solve problems.

How

1. As students are reading/listening/watching, they make note of things that they find interesting, important, or insightful.
2. When finished, students choose 3 of these items that most stand out.
 - For one of these, they choose a color that they feel best represents or captures the essence of that idea.
 - For another one, they choose a symbol that they feel best represents or captures the essence of that idea.
 - For the other one, they choose an image that they feel best represents or captures the essence of that idea.
3. With a partner or group, students share their color and then share the item from the reading that it represents. Students tell why they chose that color as a representation of that idea. Repeat the sharing process until every member of the group has shared his or her Color, Symbol, and Image.

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Interesting Item or Idea: _____

Color:	I chose this color because...
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Interesting Item or Idea: _____

Symbol:	I chose this symbol because...
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Interesting Item or Idea: _____

Image:	I chose this image because...
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