



# ASCD STUDY GUIDE

## RECIPROCAL TEACHING



## ASCD Study Guide: Reciprocal Teaching at Work

*By Lori Oczkus*

Reflect on the following questions before watching Lori Oczkus introduce, model, and practice the structured process—the Fab Four—that she uses in her reciprocal teaching approach to teaching reading.

### Pre-Viewing Reflection

1. What problems do your students have with reading comprehension? What texts do your students find most challenging?

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2. Describe two or three reading comprehension goals you have for your students.

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As you proceed through the video, pause the video after each section to answer the accompanying questions.



## The Fab Four

1. Define the term *reciprocal teaching*. What do you notice about the strategy at this point in the video? What appeals to you about the strategy?

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2. What kind of dramatic gains can students make if teachers deliver reciprocal teaching consistently?

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## Reciprocal Teaching: The Power of Talk

1. What role does talk play in reciprocal teaching? How does it engage students?

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2. Why should educators include all four strategies—predict, question, clarify, and summarize—in reciprocal teaching lessons?

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## Fab Four Strategy: Predict

1. When and how do good readers predict? Why should we teach students to predict?

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2. Discuss ways to teach students to predict during informational text lessons. How is predicting during fiction lessons different than predicting with informational text?

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3. How does the “because” gesture help students to find text evidence for their predictions?

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4. Describe how a metaphor, such as a fortuneteller to represent predicting, helps students to learn and internalize the strategy. How might you incorporate the metaphors in the video into your teaching style?

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## Fab Four Strategy: Question

1. What is the role of questioning in reciprocal teaching lessons?

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2. List the kinds of questions good readers ask when reading informational text.

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3. How can you scaffold questioning so students use higher-level thinking during reading?

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## Fab Four Strategy: Clarify

1. Why is clarifying during reading important?

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2. How can you prevent students from confusing clarifying with questioning?

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3. Tell the various ways students can clarify using the sentence frame, "I didn't get the (word, sentence, part), \_\_\_\_\_ so I \_\_\_\_\_".

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4. How does visualizing fit into the clarify strategy?

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## Fab Four Strategy: Summarize

1. Why is summarizing challenging for students?

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2. What is the role of summarizing during reciprocal teaching lessons?

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3. How does the "Sammy Summarizer" character fit the strategy?

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4. List some lesson ideas from this video segment that you'd like to try in your classroom.

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## Fab Four Foundations

1. How can your lessons go from good to great using the Fab Four foundations?

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2. In the following chart, define each foundation and explain how it can improve lessons. What ideas for teaching the foundations will you use in your classes?

Fab Four Foundation	Definition / Rationale	Ideas / Scaffolds / Tools
Think Alouds		
Scaffolding		
Cooperative Learning		
Metacognition		

## Using the Fab Four: Whole-Group Instruction

1. How does the Fab Four process contribute to comprehension during whole-class lessons?  
How you might use the process with different texts?

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2. How could you adapt the Fab Four strategies used in the video's close reading lesson to your whole-group lesson, using other texts?

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## Using the Fab Four: Small-Group Instruction

1. How does the Fab Four process fit into small-group instruction to boost comprehension?

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2. How could you adapt the Fab Four strategies used in the video's guided reading lesson to your small-group lessons? Complete the following chart with ideas you can use with your students.

Guided Reading Small-Group Lesson	
Fab Four Strategy	Ideas for Engagement / Observations
Predict	
Question	
Clarify	
Summarize	

## Using the Fab Four: Literature Circles & Book Clubs

1. How can you prepare students to work in teams using the Fab Four reciprocal teaching process? How can you train students in both the strategies and the literature circle process?

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2. In the following chart, list tools or techniques you could use with different types of lessons to provide book club/literature circle experiences for students.

Lesson Idea	Tools / Techniques
Fish Bowl	
Role Cards	
Rotating Roles	



## Reciprocal Teaching Across Grade Levels

1. After watching the three roundtable discussions with different schools in the video, record your observations and insights.

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2. How did Kimi adapt the Fab Four process in a whole-group lesson using a novel? Where did you see evidence of the four foundations?

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## Using Fab Four to Teach Poetry

1. Why is poetry a great vehicle for teaching students to use the Fab Four process? How do the strategies change when teaching poetry? What is the role of clarify during poetry lessons? How should you “chunk” poetry so students enjoy it while employing the strategies?

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2. Record your observations from both poetry lessons in the video. How will you adapt these ideas for your classroom?

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## Reciprocal Teaching: Taking It Home

1. How can parents use the Fab Four process at home with their children? How might they use the Fab Four Bookmark?

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2. How can parents discuss books with their children collaboratively, using the Fab Four process?

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## Post-Viewing Reflection

1. Why is keeping the strategies together important to yielding results using reciprocal teaching?

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2. What proof do we have that reciprocal teaching works? Provide examples.

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