

## Teaching Tip: Transfer

To foster students' growth into independent learners, teach them specifically about the idea of transfer.

- Introduce the idea of transfer in a mini-lesson, explaining why it's important to students' progress. To illustrate the concept, first review what students have practiced that you want them to transfer. Then demonstrate how the skill or knowledge works in different situations and subjects. Here's what I say to help students transfer the skill of comparing and contrasting, which they've practiced with literature, to other contexts.

*You've been comparing and contrasting settings, characters, and conflicts using my read-aloud text, *Through My Eyes* by Ruby Bridges, and your instructional reading materials. The skill you've developed—finding how specific literary elements are alike and how they differ in a text—can be used in other situations. You can use compare and contrast to show how two different informational texts treat the same topic. You can also use it to evaluate two or more websites or two ways to solve the same math problem. Comparing and contrasting can also help you with life decisions that you make. For example, you can evaluate two summer camps this way to decide which one you'd rather attend. You can also use it when buying clothes to compare brands and/or styles before choosing one. It's a useful and practical strategy because it's helpful beyond school tasks.*

- Be explicit when showing students how they can transfer a skill discussed from your read-aloud text to a new situation. For example, if you point out and explain flashback in reading, show students how they could use that technique when writing a memoir or story. Help them see more generally that what they notice while reading can be used in their own writing.
- Have students share or debrief, and ask them to link what they are presently doing to a skill or strategy they previously learned. For example, one group of sixth-grade students pointed out that learning to evaluate websites in English class enabled them to choose websites that their teacher found acceptable for a research project in history.
- Provide time during guided practice with instructional materials and independent reading using self-selected books for students to practice a new skill so they have a depth of understanding that can result in transfer.
- Have conversations with students where they can showcase and explain transfers they've made first to you and then to classmates.