

# Teacher's Guide to the Anticipation Guide

## *The Wednesday Wars* (1<sup>st</sup> ed)

### PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

Anticipation guides, according to Frank Smith (1978) allow the reader to make predictions about text before reading by eliminating possibilities that are unlikely. Also called reaction or prediction guides, the anticipation guide is a way to prepare a reader prior to a reading assignment by asking them to react to a series of statements related to the content of the material. Three reasons for using anticipation guides according to Erickson, Huber, Bea, and McKenzie (1987) include: (1) relating prior knowledge to new information to enhance comprehension, (2) creating interest which stimulates discussion on the topic, and (3) creating possibilities for integrating reading and writing instruction.

To create your own anticipation guide, just follow these steps:

1. Read the material you intend to assign the students. Determine the main ideas and questions you would like students to grapple with in reading the text. In *The Wednesday Wars* the main ideas include themes of religion, family, being accepted by your peers/family, and not letting other people decide your future.
2. Write approximately ten short declarative statements with those themes in mind. Avoid questions that do not generally require discussion. The more controversial the better! See the guide below as an example.
3. Hand out your anticipation guide to students. Explain the instructions, then have them decide their answers first individually, then discuss them in groups of two or three.
4. As a class, discuss one or two of the more "explosive" questions (ask the students which ones they think are so.) For example, if the students say, "first impressions are always right" ask follow up questions such as: *Have you ever been wrong about someone that you immediately stereotyped? Can our gut instincts be wrong? What if someone is just having a bad day?*
5. Assign the reading.
6. Once students have completed the reading (or throughout the course of the novel, if desired) return to the anticipation guide. In groups and as a class, determine what the author thought about the issues discussed in the anticipation guide, using examples from the text.

Following is one example of an Anticipation Guide for *The Wednesday Wars*. It should be used at the **beginning** of the unit, before the students have begun reading. It will introduce students to the themes and major ideas that are common throughout the novel, and prepare them for what they will encounter while reading.

Collect the anticipation guide for participation points, and then begin reading the novel.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

## Anticipation Guide for *The Wednesday Wars*

Directions: In the space provided by each statement, write an "A" if you agree with the statement, and a "D" if you disagree with the statement. Be able to defend your position!

**Agree/Disagree?**

If a lot of people want you to do something, you should do it. \_\_\_\_\_

In order to not make others feel bad, it's okay to limit your accomplishments. \_\_\_\_\_

In order to succeed you have to do whatever it takes. \_\_\_\_\_

All's fair in love and war. \_\_\_\_\_

You should be willing to do anything for your family. \_\_\_\_\_

Having a nice house and nice things makes you happy. \_\_\_\_\_

If someone hurts you, it's okay to be mean to them. \_\_\_\_\_

First impressions are always right. \_\_\_\_\_

Father always knows best. \_\_\_\_\_

Celebrities are good role models. \_\_\_\_\_

Old stories can't relate to my life. \_\_\_\_\_