Text Mapping

Mapping a scroll

Follow a three-step process:

1. **Identify features** that are relevant to your purpose. Think about their significance to your purpose.

   ![Image of a scroll with identified features]

   You - and your students - will have a much easier time recognizing and identifying features on a scroll. You will be surprised by the difference; features seem to pop out at you, and the purpose and significance of different features will become instantly obvious.

2. **Mark them.**

   It is important that you actually mark the features. Simply noticing a feature is not sufficient. Students - and teachers - who are just beginning to learn about Textmapping commonly are lazy about marking; and it shows. Once you have practiced Textmapping for a while, you will understand just how direct is the connection between marking and active reading. You will find that the more you mark, the more actively-engaged you will become with the text.

What to mark?

- "Mark all the headings."
- "Mark all of the vocabulary words."
- "Mark all of the questions."
- "Draw a box around each sub-section."
- "Mark those points on the scroll where there are scene-changes in the story".
- Highlight, circle, or underline every feature that your students identify. For example, circle block-level features such as sections, sub-sections, illustrations, and pre-reading cue lists; highlight inline questions and key (bold print) words.
For non-fiction:

- **orange**: chapters, front and back matter
- **gray**: illustrations
- **black**: the textstream
- **green**: headings/sections
- **blue**: sub-headings/sub-sections
- **purple**: questions and pre-reading cues
- **red underline**: key words
- **pink circle**: names, dates, etc.
- **yellow highlighter**: stuff you think is important (after lots of marking and close reading)

For fiction:

- **gray**: illustrations
- **black**: chapters
- **orange**: section structure.
- **gray**: plot line - i.e., the progress from introduction through conflict, climax, and resolution
- **green**: setting, i.e., time and place, social and economic context
- **blue**: references to characters
- **purple**: characterization i.e., How are the characters described? and What are their qualities?
- **yellow**: theme(s).

3. Mark their areal extent.

Stand back and look at what you have done. In the example below, notice that the sections are now more clearly distinguished. You can instantly see which sections are longer. This, in turn, provides useful information about how the illustrations relate to the flow of ideas in the text.

This marking step is critical. Many students have commented that as soon as they draw a box around an illustration, or a section, or the answer to a question, that chunk - in their words - "stops moving," and "is a lot easier to find." In essence, what they are saying is that drawing a box around chunks of information accomplishes two things.
First, it says, "Everything in here goes together." Second, it defines in spatial terms how the boxed-in chunk relates to the other chunks around it, as well as to the text as a whole. Many students find this very helpful. It defines a text in simple, graphic terms - in a way that is explicit and concrete. In effect, it says, "These are the pieces, and here's how they fit together."

Notice how being able to see the entire text changes the process for you - how it makes things explicit and concrete. Notice how standing and moving around changes the way that you interact with the text - how it contrasts with sitting still to read a book.

**Learning Styles**

Scrolls and Textmapping accommodate a wider range of learning styles than do books and book-bound marking strategies.

- **Visual learners** benefit from being able to see a text as a complete, unbroken whole. For more on this, read about **scrolls**. Visual learners also benefit from Textmapping, which **illuminates** text **typography**, making a text's graphic features and configuration fully accessible and comprehensible at a glance. For more on this, read about **mapping**.

- **Spatial and kinaesthetic** learners are better able to comprehend scrolled text because it gives them a feel for where things are. By way of analogy, scrolls and **typography** are to text what maps and topography are to land. Each scrolled text is a unique graphic entity with its own unique "lay of the land". For spatial and kinaesthetic learners, the simple act of unrolling a scroll and walking back and forth along its length opens a concrete "way in" to an otherwise abstract world.

- **Kinaesthetic and tactile learners** can appreciate the fact that scrolls and Textmapping encourage a level and range of physical interaction with text that simply is not available when reading from books. Students reading scrolls spend a lot of time walking, crawling, "zooming in" (moving closer), "zooming out" (stepping back), leaning, poking, pointing, smoothing, cutting, tapping, gluing, annotating, highlighting, and drawing circles, boxes, symbols and arrows. For kinaesthetic and tactile learners, this compares very favorably indeed to sitting quietly in a chair. Reading is re-defined as a "contact sport" - a sport in which more contact means more learning. For more on this, see **benefit #3**.

- **Global learners** benefit from being able to see the "big picture" at all times. This is crucial for them because without the full context, global learners are lost. In the same vein, the process of mapping a scroll helps global learners gain a much clearer understanding of how the details relate to the big picture. For more on this, see **benefit #2**.
Colors & Markers

- **Red or Orange**: Divide the text into three sections: introduction, main body, and review.
- **Brown or Grey**: Box the illustrations.
- **Black**: Box the textstream in the main body of the text.
- **Green**: Circle each heading and box its corresponding section. Mark only headings (see "blue marker" instruction, below).
- **Blue**: Circle each sub-heading and box its corresponding sub-section.
- **Purple**: Box all questions in the main body of the text.
- **Pink**: Circle names & dates
- **Yellow**: Highlight the vocabulary words in the main body & important stuff