

SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGIES

A variety of simple instructional strategies that incorporate the use of digital media in meaningful, effective, and practical ways.

DID YOU HEAR THAT?



BACKGROUND

A single note from a song can take us back in time, and the creak of a darkened home can send our hearts racing. Though sound is directly related to our sense of hearing, it also can create mental images. “Creating mental images requires more mental energy and therefore leads to deeper processing than creating graphic representations, drawing or sketching. When students create mental images, they must hold them in their working memory while elaborating on them, questioning them, and drawing conclusions from them. The effort required to visualize and manipulate mental images creates a more permanent and more deeply processed record in the brain of the content being studied.” (Marzano, R. J., & Hefflebower, T. *Teaching & Assessing 21st Century Skills*)

EXAMPLE

- * Without telling students what the sound effects are, play the following 2 sounds for your students. Play them independently of each other.
 - * [Glass: Smash: Medium Glass Smash Crash \(CDN Subscriber\)](#)
 - * [Animal: Dog: Medium Dog Barking \(CDN Subscriber\)](#)
- * Ask students to close their eyes as you replay the sound effects and visualize what is happening.
- * Have students write a story that incorporates the two sound effects.

- * **Pro Tip:** Record your students reading their stories and insert the sound effects. ([Audioboo](#), Audacity, GarageBand (Mac/iOS), etc.)

CHALLENGE

- * Search Discovery Education for 2 sound effects that connect to your current unit of study.
- * Do not tell your students what the sound effects are but play them separately back-to-back.
- * Have your students close their eyes and visualize the scene.
- * Tell your students to write a story that incorporates the sound effects.

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