

Book study example: Modifying by student interest

Example: Assignment based on *The Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden

Before reading:

Complete a circle map of all that you know about crickets and about Times Square or New York City. Make a list of at least ten things that might threaten the survival of a cricket in such a busy city.

During reading:

After reading each chapter, write a sentence stating what you learned about survival from this chapter. Who or what had trouble surviving, or survived something?

After reading:

Consider this book from the perspective of one of the following professionals. Choose your perspective based on your interest:

- **Businessman:** Look in your city's local newspaper and find an advertisement for a "Going Out of Business" sale or an article about a business that is closing. Make a poster, create a PowerPoint presentation, or write a letter that might help this business to survive.
- **Scientist:** Read about two species of animals depicted in the book (cats, crickets, or mice). What are the habits of each? Could they live together? What problems might they have surviving by themselves and with each other?
- **Historian:** Research the role of crickets in Chinese culture by reading the article "Cricket Lore: The Chinese Love Affair with Crickets." Write a poem or article that someone from that culture might write about crickets. Include why you might love them.
- **Mathematician or meteorologist:** Did you know that you can tell the temperature by counting a cricket's chirps? Complete the worksheet for mathematicians and meteorologists. Pay attention to where you might get tricked!
- **Exterminator:** Do crickets cause harm? If someone has too many crickets, what could an exterminator do? Read about crickets and their ability to cause good and/or harm.
- **Transportation authority:** What rules should exist concerning pets on mass transportation (buses, subways, trains, airplanes)? Think about rules that help people, as well as those that help the animals to survive. Write a list of at least five rules you would suggest for one of these forms of transportation.