The Shared Inquiry™ Sequence of Activities

Prereading  (5–10 minutes)

Students briefly explore a concept relevant to the text they will be reading.

**Student Learning Objective:** To activate and build background knowledge related to a text

**Key Shared Inquiry Concept:** Thinking about what we already know helps us get ready to read.

First Reading (25–40 minutes)

Students listen as the text is read aloud, marking questions and/or reactions.

**Student Learning Objective:** To ask questions and use other reading strategies to improve understanding of a text

**Key Shared Inquiry Concept:** Reading a text once is just the first step in understanding it.

Sharing Questions (10–25 minutes)

Students share different types of questions about what they just read.

**Student Learning Objective:** To ask questions arising from a text and identify whether they need to be answered right away

**Key Shared Inquiry Concept:** Asking and addressing questions are essential strategies for understanding a text.

Second Reading    (25–45 minutes)

Students follow along as the text is reread and engage in activities that help them explore the text’s meaning in more depth.

**Student Learning Objective:** To reread and interact with a text in order to gain a deeper understanding of it

**Key Shared Inquiry Concept:** Rereading is essential to understanding a rich text.
The Shared Inquiry Sequence of Activities, continued

Vocabulary (10–20 minutes)*
Students identify new vocabulary words and use context and outside sources to determine the meaning of important words.

Student Learning Objective: To understand new vocabulary in context

Key Shared Inquiry Concept: Word meaning can often be determined from context, but not all unknown words are equally important to understanding a text.

Shared Inquiry Discussion (20–45 minutes)
Students explore a text’s meaning in depth by discussing interpretive questions.

Student Learning Objective: To discuss a text’s meaning by sharing ideas, supporting ideas with evidence, and listening to other students’ responses

Key Shared Inquiry Concept: Discussing a text with others helps us come to a deeper understanding of it.

Written or Creative Response (times vary)
Students deepen and extend their understanding of what they read through written or creative response.

Student Learning Objective: To extend learning from reading and discussion through written or creative engagement

Key Shared Inquiry Concept: There are many ways to further explore the themes and ideas in a text.

*In some Great Books K–12 programs the vocabulary activity can be found after the sharing questions activity, but it can be done at any time after the first reading.