

KWL STRATEGY

Purpose:

KWL engages students in active learning, encouraging them to assess through writing what they already know, question what they want to know or wonder about, and pin point what they learned or still need to learn. This strategy can be used in small groups or the whole class to prompt discussion and true understanding of a topic.

Directions:

Step 1- Introduce the KWL strategy in conjunction with a new topic or text.

Explain that the KWL worksheet will help them generate questions and focus their reading of the text.

Step 2- Before you begin reading, pick a main concept from a text or supplementary text and ask the students to brainstorm what they already know about this topic. Have the students record their ideas and the ideas of classmates on their KWL papers and also record them on an overhead or chalkboard for students to follow along.

Step 3- Brainstorm a list of student questions by asking “What are you still wondering about ?” or “What are you most interested in learning about?”

Step 4- When preparing to read, have the students use their knowledge and their questions to make predictions about the organization of the text, namely what major categories of information the author is apt to focus on.

Step 5- Read the text individually, in small groups, or as a class to answer the questions. As they find answers to their questions they should also be looking to ask more questions of the text to fill in the “L” column of their strategy sheets.

Assessment:

This strategy engages students in active reading as they find out what they already know and learn to ask questions and find answers within the text they are studying. Students learn to be inquisitive, intelligent readers. This activity can be used as a springboard to class discussion, reviews, and constructing graphic organizers, acting as a way to evaluate student comprehension of the concepts and topics in a text.

Name: _____

KWL STRATEGY
The House on Mango Street

Directions: Along with our reading of “Cathy Queen of Cats” and “No Speak English” we are going to discuss **immigration**—how it is currently perceived and how Cisneros writes about it. I want to know what you already **know**, what you are **wondering** about, and finally what you **learned** or still want to **learn**.

IMMIGRATION

K-What I Know	W-What I Wonder About	L-What I Learned or Still Want to Learn

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<p>-Our country is known for being a “melting pot” where people from different cultures and ethnicities are welcomed.</p> <p>-Today it seems that immigration is very negatively thought of, especially when connected to Mexicans or Chicanos.</p> <p>-At school the Mexicans seem to be separated from the other social cliques and don’t really get involved in school activities, sports, dances.</p> <p>-There is a problem with illegal immigrants and President Bush has put patrol troops down at the border in Arizona.</p> <p>-Esperanza and her family are immigrants. They are kind of poor and she has to work to go to school.</p> <p>-Many immigrants come to the states for opportunities to make money and be more successful. Many do not ever find a way to fulfill their dreams and get stuck in minimum wage jobs that no one else wants.</p>	<p>-Will Esperanza be able to rise above the poverty she lives in?</p> <p>-What kind of immigration laws will our government pass?</p> <p>-What will this do to our economy? Who will work the jobs that they could have worked?</p> <p>-What is my opinion on illegal immigrants who come to work in the U.S.? Is it fair to me and to others who are trying to get jobs?</p> <p>-What are current immigration laws?</p> <p>-How is the government able to track people who immigrate into our country?</p> <p>-How does one legally immigrate into the U.S.? Does it take a long time? Why don’t the illegal immigrants wait to immigrate legally so that they don’t have the fear of getting caught?</p>	<p>-There are people in Esperanza’s neighborhood who disapprove of all the people moving in.</p> <p>-Ex: Cathy says that every time people like Esperanza’s family move in they have to move farther away (13).</p> <p>-President Bush did just send troops down to guard the border between the U.S. and Mexico. What does this mean for us and for those who want to immigrate to the U.S.?</p> <p>-There is a general negative connotation to Mexican immigrants and Cathy shows this.</p> <p>-It is hard for immigrants to adapt to the American culture. I wonder what it would be like if I moved to a different place where no one spoke the same language and the culture was foreign to me? Would I be willing to assimilate or would I stay cooped up in the house all day like Mamacita?</p>



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(Kristin Lowe, 2006)