

# Tear & Share

## **What**

Tear and Share is an after reading summary tool that can also be used before reading as a formative assessment tool. Used as a summary tool, students answer Question-Answer-Relationship questions posed by the teacher after they have read a piece of text. They share their ideas and articulate orally a summary statement from all student responses to the individual questions. Used as a formative pre-assessment tool, teachers pose questions about content students have not read to trigger their prior knowledge and to use student responses to make instructional decisions. Also, teachers will make decisions about vocabulary or prerequisite skills that should be frontloaded prior to new content.

## **Why**

Tear & Share is an interactive way for students to summarize a piece of text. Students gain a greater understanding of the text from hearing ideas from other students.

## **How**

*You will need the following materials:*

- a reading selection (chapter, article, or book) of narrative or expository text
  - summary QAR questions
  - pre-reading questions to trigger prior knowledge
1. **Identify summary questions from a piece of text.** Teachers pose QAR questions that they want students to respond to after reading.
  2. **Use a mixer to get students in groups of four.** Teachers get students in groups and each student receives a Tear and Share sheet.
  3. **Respond to questions.** Students use five minutes to independently respond to summary questions. Once they have completed their responses, they tear their paper along the x and y axis lines provided to make four smaller sheets.
  4. **Divide the response sheets.** One student collects all the number one responses, one student collects all the number two, three, and four sheets from each participant.
  5. **Read the responses.** Students **read the 4 responses to one question** from each participant, looking for common themes or threads.
  6. **Mentally or in writing compose a summary of the responses.** Students create a summary statement including the response information from each participant. Encourage students to do this mentally, however, if at first they want to write their summary statement, let them.
  7. **Share summary statements.** Students verbally state their summary of one question.
  8. **Used as a formative assessment tool.** Students still complete steps 1-7, however, teachers need to emphasize that the summary statements will be a collection of the group's prior knowledge.

## Tear & Share

**1. Which type of bear would you like to meet in the woods and why?**

**2. What are the differences between black and grizzly bears?**

**3. Would this information prevent you from taking a “walk in the woods”?  
Explain**

**4. What else do you want to know about black and grizzly bears?**