

## **Take Reading Beyond the Mechanics & Create Some Magic! & Other Objectives**

### **Have fun with your imagination. Dream BIG!**

- This format provides a safe environment where children can flex their imagination muscles and think “out of the box”.
- The only rules are:
  1. There are no rules. Have fun!
  2. All images welcome. The more “wild” and fantastic, the better. (After all, you’re “right” from your perspective.)
  3. If you can dream it, then it may be real. Go for it!

### **Build Identity / Self-Esteem by defeating Dick-and-Jane, cookie-cutter images**

- Few illustrated books provide images that match the wonderful melting pot of heritages present in families today.
- Typically, many stories feature the perception of one race.
  - Many children and families cannot identify with these antiquated images.
  - Teachers have a hard time working with these images and the subtle messaging they give.
- With this story format, the child creates what her/his character looks like.
  - It doesn't matter if the image looks like her/him.
  - The picture may change everyday. It doesn't matter. What matters is, what the child is feeling, identifying with, and communicating that matters. What “works” for her/him at that moment is what “works”.

### **Get Tactile with Reading**

#### **Dive in, chew on it, savor it; Get your “hands dirty & your feet wet”**

- How many times has a child received a book and was told, “Don't write in it. Take good care of it. You don't want to ruin it!”
- These statements may discourage the child from truly enjoying and experiencing a book.
- This format encourages the child to get tactile with the story, the book, and READING!
- They *should* taste it, feel it, and embrace it. They *should* EXPERIENCE the story. As a result, they may ENJOY the whole process and love reading!
- If they want to tear up the page, fine!      If they want to proudly display it, fine!      It's all good!

### **Improve Social, Language, Critical-thinking, Decision-making & “Softer” Skills**

- Through use and interaction, the child builds/improves:
  - Language/communication skills
  - Team-building, leadership skills and other social and relationship skills
  - Critical-thinking, reasoning, and decision-making skills