

Text Structure Newsletter

February 2023

“A child who reads will be an adult that thinks.”
– Proverb

KAT+ Elevate & Empower

The number of **KAT+ Elevate & Empower** lesson guides continues to grow.

These powerful lesson guides contain the regular KAT checkpoints **PLUS** additional checkpoints with information on how the main idea & summary can be leveraged to cover additional standards, such as character traits, plot, and author’s purpose.

KAT+ lesson guides contain questions covering *all* of the comprehension TEKS AND exposing students to new STAAR item types.

Check these out:

- [“The Surprise Party”](#)
 - [PowerPoint](#)
- [A Tale of Traditional Tales \(Sp.\)](#)
- [Speech to the Young \(video\)](#)
- **And many more!**

KAT+ guides are available in both English & Spanish!

Teacher Resource Library

The Teacher Resource Library Continues to grow! Our picture book count increases daily for both fiction and non-fiction. We are also extending our resources with more texts for K-2nd AND 6th-8th grade students.

For the most up-to-date list of resources, checkout the [File Library Index!](#)

February First Thursday

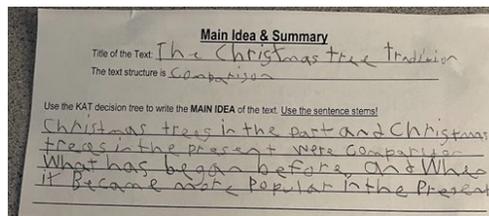
Our First Thursday KAT Chat for February was held on February 2nd. Thank you to all who attended.

This month, Ms. Jennifer Brewer, one of our district ELA specialists modeled a poem—**“Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout”**—using the **KAT+ Elevate & Empower** lesson format. Ms. Brewer leveraged the main idea of the poem to write a constructed response incorporating WeWrite.

We also previewed some of the many **STAAR resources** we have on the Teacher Resource Library. Watch this [video from Ms. Hotcaveg](#) to take a look at how KAT can be utilized for testing.

Check out the videos from First Thursday on the right!

Shoutouts & Celebrations



We’re celebrating how the **KAT Framework** has unlocked comprehension for ALL students, especially those receiving special services!

Your creativity abounds—one 4th grade team even created a KAT+ lesson for their Nutcracker field trip!

First Thursday Videos

- [Full video](#)
- [KAT+ Elevate & Empower Model Lesson with Ms. Brewer](#)
- [Q&A with Dr. Kay](#)

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Next FIRST THURSDAY:

MAR. 2, 2023

Mark your calendar—we'll see you there!

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KAT+ Elevate & Empower Implementation Questions

We've received several questions that we thought may help you as you implement text structures & elevate your KAT lessons with your students.

Q1: How should I explain how the text structure strategy helps students comprehend to colleagues who are unfamiliar with it?

Tell people that teachers are teaching a lot of skills in isolation; they are teaching things about cause and effect, and compare/contrast in their classrooms. But what they're doing with it is not efficient, effective, or producing the results that they should be getting. What we do with the text structure is to generate **main ideas**, **summaries**, **inferences**, and *leverage that to teach all the rest of the skills*. Compare what you are doing with what they're doing. It's about the main idea, which is the **foundation of comprehension**. It's about the summary that has all the supporting information. It's about inferencing. It's about building on that. That's comprehension.

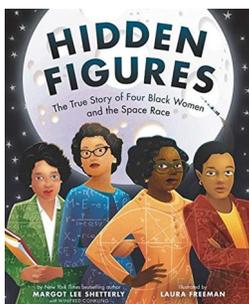
Q2: How do we use KAT for testing?

Checkout the **Teacher Resource Library**. Watch the instructional videos made by Ms. Hotcaveg. She has gone through very carefully and explained why the right answers are right and the wrong answers are wrong. We have opened the STAAR lesson path (on ITSS) for most of our participating schools—students will actually see STAAR passages and answer choices, and have answers explained by our team.

Resources for Black History Month

We have lesson guides for texts celebrating the lives of many important historical figures.

- [I Have a Dream](#)
- [My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)
- [I Am Rosa Parks](#)
- [Henry's Freedom Box](#)
- [I Am Jackie Robinson](#)
- [Hidden Figures](#)
- [Counting on Katherine](#)
- [What Do You Do with a Voice Like That?](#)



ACE Literacy Project

Checkout our latest podcast, Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13, the biography of one of the hidden figures behind the Apollo missions!

To share the ACE flyers with your families, click on the links to below.

- [English](#)
- [Spanish](#)

