

Have participants read this without any title or explanation of what it's about...I usually read it aloud for them if they can't see it clearly. Survey them about their experience in reading this. Then, ask them to read it again AFTER you tell them that they will be reading a selection about Christopher Columbus. Wild reactions to this!

Prior Knowledge...the main determinant of comprehension?

With hocked gems financing him, our hero bravely defied all scornful laughter that tried to prevent his scheme. "Your eyes deceived" he had said. "An egg not a table correctly typifies this unexplored planet." Now three sturdy sisters sought proof. Forging along sometimes through calm vastness, yet more often over turbulent peaks and valleys. Days became weeks as many doubters spread fearful rumors about the edge. At last from somewhere, welcomed winged creatures appeared signifying success.