

Task for *The Natural Way of Things*

A note about three-level guides

A three-level guide is a strategy for getting students to think their way through their reading. It involves close reading of the text and challenging students to defend the readings that they make.

There are three levels of engagement with the text:

- looking for what the words on the page actually say;
- drawing conclusions from what the text says; and finally,
- going beyond the text itself into the wider world.

Pedagogically there are four stages to conducting a three-level guide:

1. Students respond to the statements individually.
2. Students move into small groups to discuss and defend answers and arrive at a group consensus.
3. Students then move into other small groups to argue for their group answers from Step 2.
4. The teacher, acting as a moderator, now conducts a whole-class discussion to achieve a class-wide consensus on the meaning of the text. Hopefully this will lead to some constructive class debate.