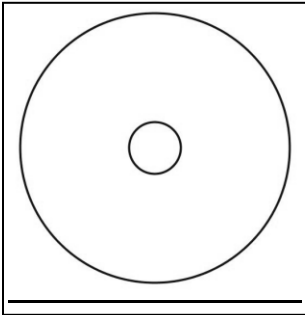


# Thinking Maps: Tools for Learning

This week's  
focus:

## The Circle Map



### Purpose:

To define in context;  
generate ideas;  
examine how you view something;  
brainstorm

### Key Words:

define  
prior knowledge  
list  
tell what know  
context (clues)  
identify

### Thinking process:

This map is used to help us define something and show our understanding of a topic. We use this to generate ideas, assess what we already know, and what we have learned.

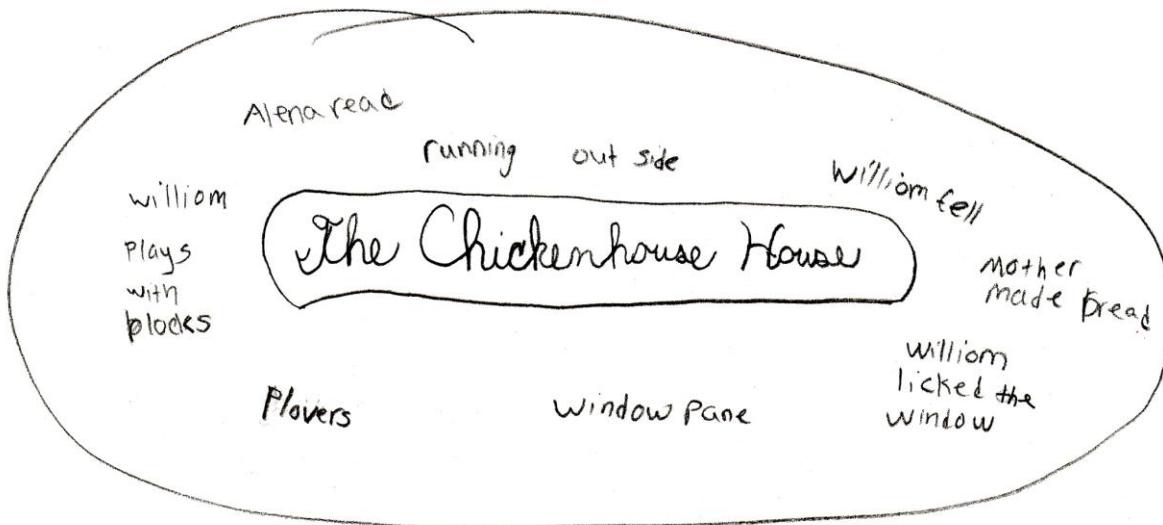
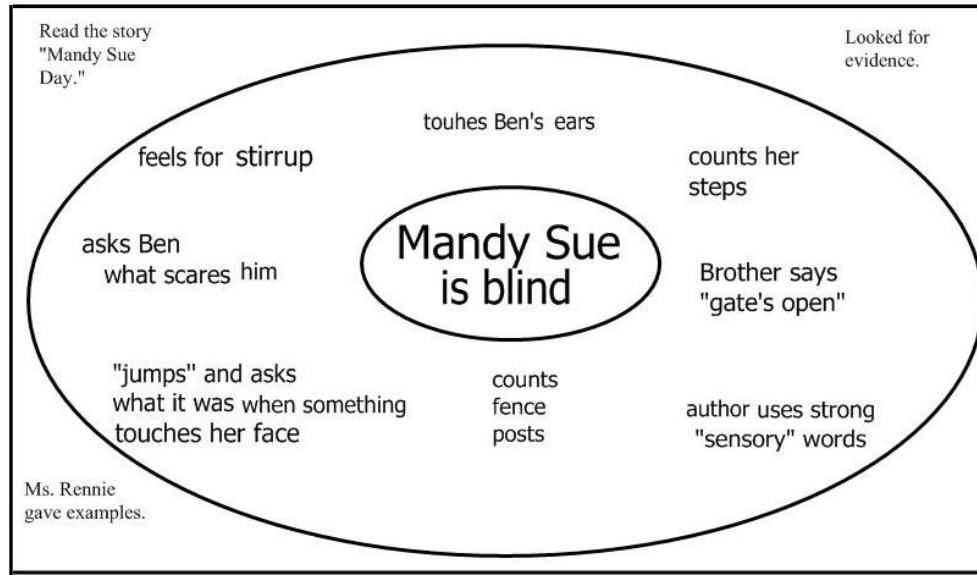
Around the outside is a box. This is called the "frame of reference." Here we can write how we know what we know. Did someone teach us? Did we experience it? Did we read/see something about it? It also allows us to consider our point of view because our different experiences cause us to see the world differently from one another. (Would an adult define a "good" TV show the same way a child would?)

### How to create this map:

1. In the center of your paper write the topic or idea that you are thinking about. Then draw a circle around it.
2. Brainstorm all of your thoughts about this topic/idea and write (or draw) them around the circle. When you're finished, draw a large circle around everything.
3. Draw a box around the outside of all of this to create your "frame of reference." Write how you know what you know or what influenced your thoughts.

Turn over to see examples and suggestions.

Here are examples of circle maps from classrooms.



Sample questions you could ask at home:

- What meals would you like to eat for dinner?
- What gifts would you like for your next birthday/Christmas?
- What are your favorite kinds of candy?
- What should you plant in your family's garden?
- What do you want to dress up as for Halloween?
- What stores do you visit most often?

Select one of the questions to the left or come up with your own idea of how your child or your family could use this circle map.