

## Lesson 1: Understanding the Reader

### Newspaper Focus: News and Feature Stories

*Background* — Students have many different, unformed and incorrect perceptions about what it means to comprehend text. Many students think that they are supposed to soak up the information they encounter in their reading. They are unaware of the conscious activity that comprehension requires. Good readers make connections between what they already know and new information. The first activity, *Think About Yourself*, requires students to identify their familiarity level with the topics they will encounter in the newspaper. The second activity, *Think About the Newspaper*, has students anticipate where they can find different kinds of information in the newspaper.

### 5-8 English Standards

#### **A. PROCESS OF READING**

1. Formulate questions to be answered while reading.
8. Read for a wide variety of purposes (e.g., to gain knowledge, to aid in making decisions, to receive instructions, to follow an argument, to enjoy).
9. Explain orally and defend opinions formed while reading and viewing.

#### **B. LITERATURE AND CULTURE**

1. Demonstrate an understanding that people respond to literature in different and individual ways.
2. Identify specific interests and questions and pursue them by identifying pertinent literature and media.

#### **D. INFORMATIONAL TEXTS**

4. Identify different ways in which informational texts are organized.
8. Use the various parts of a text (index, table of contents, glossary) to locate specific information.

### 9-12 English Standards

#### **A. PROCESS OF READING**

1. Demonstrate an understanding that reading is a gradual process of constructing meaning and revising initial understandings.
2. Demonstrate an understanding that a single text will elicit a wide variety of responses, each of which may be the point of view of the individual reader or listener.

#### **D. INFORMATIONAL TEXTS**

3. Use discussions with peers as a way of understanding information.
6. Explain how new information from a text changes personal knowledge.

#### **H. RESEARCH-RELATED WRITING AND SPEAKING**

1. Develop an appropriate strategy for finding information on a particular topic.
7. Identify and use a variety of news sources (e.g., newspapers, magazines, broadcast and recorded media, artifacts), informants, and other likely sources for research purposes.