**Cloze**

**What is it?**

The teacher prepares a text for cloze by deleting some carefully selected words. Students, usually working together, read the text and supply appropriate words to fill the gaps.

**What is its purpose?**

Cloze is useful for drawing attention to particular features of texts in order to help students to understand how texts can be interpreted or constructed.

**How do I do it?**

Select a passage text of appropriate level that is relevant to the topic/unit of work on which students are working. This text can be reproduced in written form so that students have their own copies, or it can be a common text in the form of, for example, a big book or an overhead. Choose the particular language feature(s) you wish to focus on, and delete words accordingly. Either individually or in groups, students choose words to fill in these gaps so that the text makes sense.

**How can I adapt it?**

Cloze can be used to teach and assess a range of skills and understandings. For example, teachers can use cloze to decide the extent to which students:

\* understand the structure of the text;

\* understand language features including grammar;

\* identify and use context cues;

\* use a range of listening strategies;

\* use a range of reading strategies; and

\* use a range of spelling strategies.

Cloze can be used in poetry and prose to highlight the author's word choices. Deleting title, adjectives or verbs for students to replace can lead to intense and valuable discussions about layers of meaning, and the connotations of particular words.

**How can it be used to evaluate students' language learning?**

During the task, teachers can conduct informal discussions with students about word choice and writing strategies as well as observe the strategies students use to spell words and check structure of text. If students are doing written cloze, the work samples can be analysed after the task is completed.

**Where can I find out more?**

*Assessing As You Go: Primary English*, (1997) Curriculum Corporation, Victoria.