Student Center Directions Comprehension

Signal Words and Phrases

- a major event
- important to note
- most of all
- above all
- key feature
- principal item
- central issue
- most importantly
- should be noted
- especially valuable
- most noteworthy
- remember that

Determining Important Details

- A good reader thinks about which details are most important to support the text.
- A good reader knows which details could be left out, while still retaining the meaning of the whole text.
- A good reader uses clues from text structures such as charts, headings, and captions to identify important information.
- A good reader uses clues such as **bold**, *italic*, or highlighted text to find clues to important details.
- A good reader looks for important details in the first and last paragraphs of text or in summaries.
- A good reader uses signal words and phrases that indicate important text.

With a partner

1. Read and review what good readers do while Determining Important Details and the Signal Words and Phrases.
2. Choose which story to read from Blasted to Bits, Turned to Stone or Grandmother Rock.
3. Use a highlighter to mark all the details that help the reader understand the story. Remember to focus on phrases or key words and to only rarely highlight entire sentences.
4. Review what was highlighted and determine which details are most essential to understanding the story.
5. Use a pencil to underline those important details.
6. Complete the Determining Important Details Team Sheet to identify which details were important, why they were important, and what helped you know they were important.

Independent Practice

7. Choose another story to read from Blasted to Bits, Turned to Stone or Grandmother Rock.
8. Use a highlighter to mark all the details that help a reader understand the story, then review to determine which details are most essential to the story.
9. Use a pencil to underline the Important Details.
10. Complete the Independent Practice: Significant and Minor Details sheet.