

# UNROLLING THE BOOK

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Learn more: <http://www.textmapping.org/benefits.html> | <http://www.about.me/davemiddlebrook>

Contact: [dmiddlebrook@textmapping.org](mailto:dmiddlebrook@textmapping.org) | 609-771-1781

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## Why use Scrolls?

A brief introduction to the  
benefits of using scrolls for classroom instruction.



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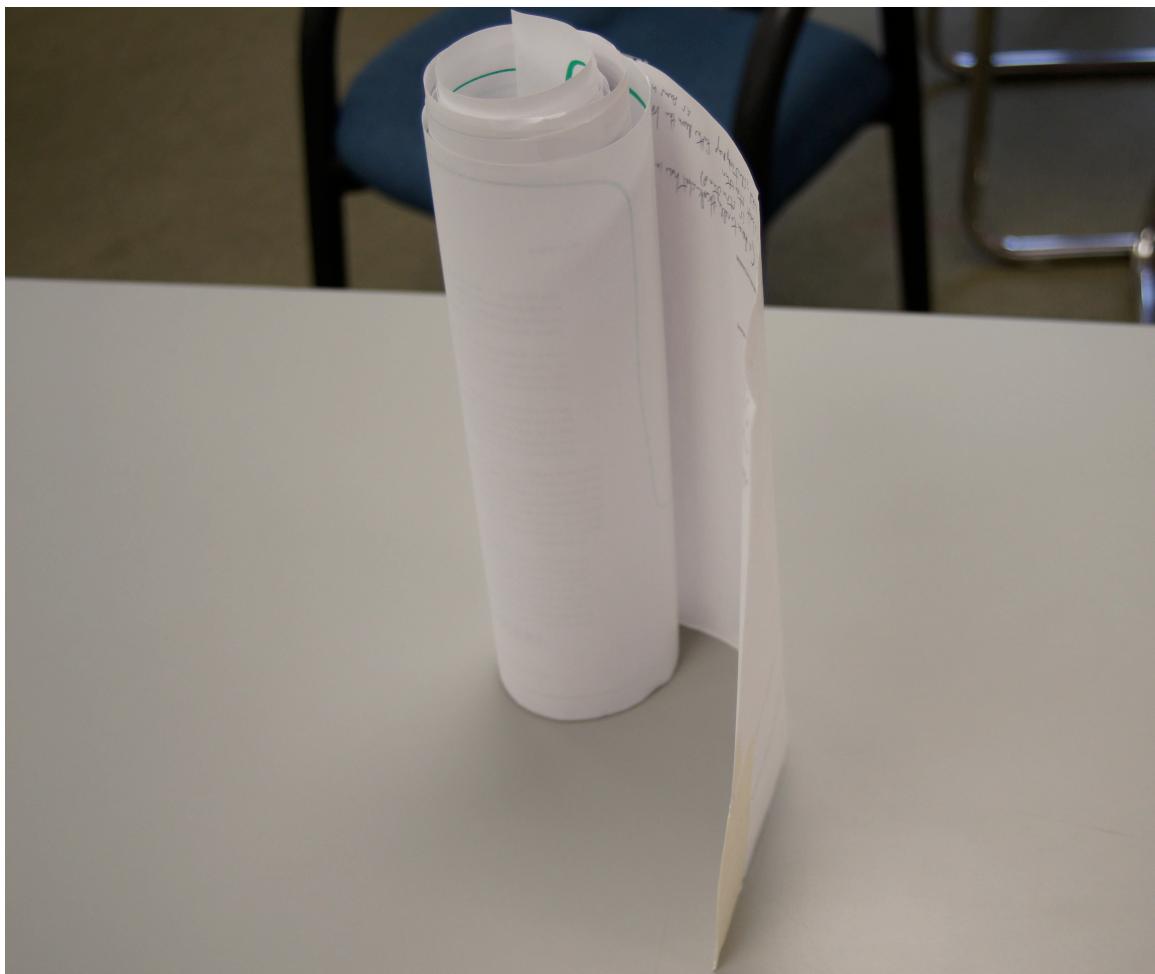
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What can students do with a scroll...



...that they *can't* do with a book?

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# Well....

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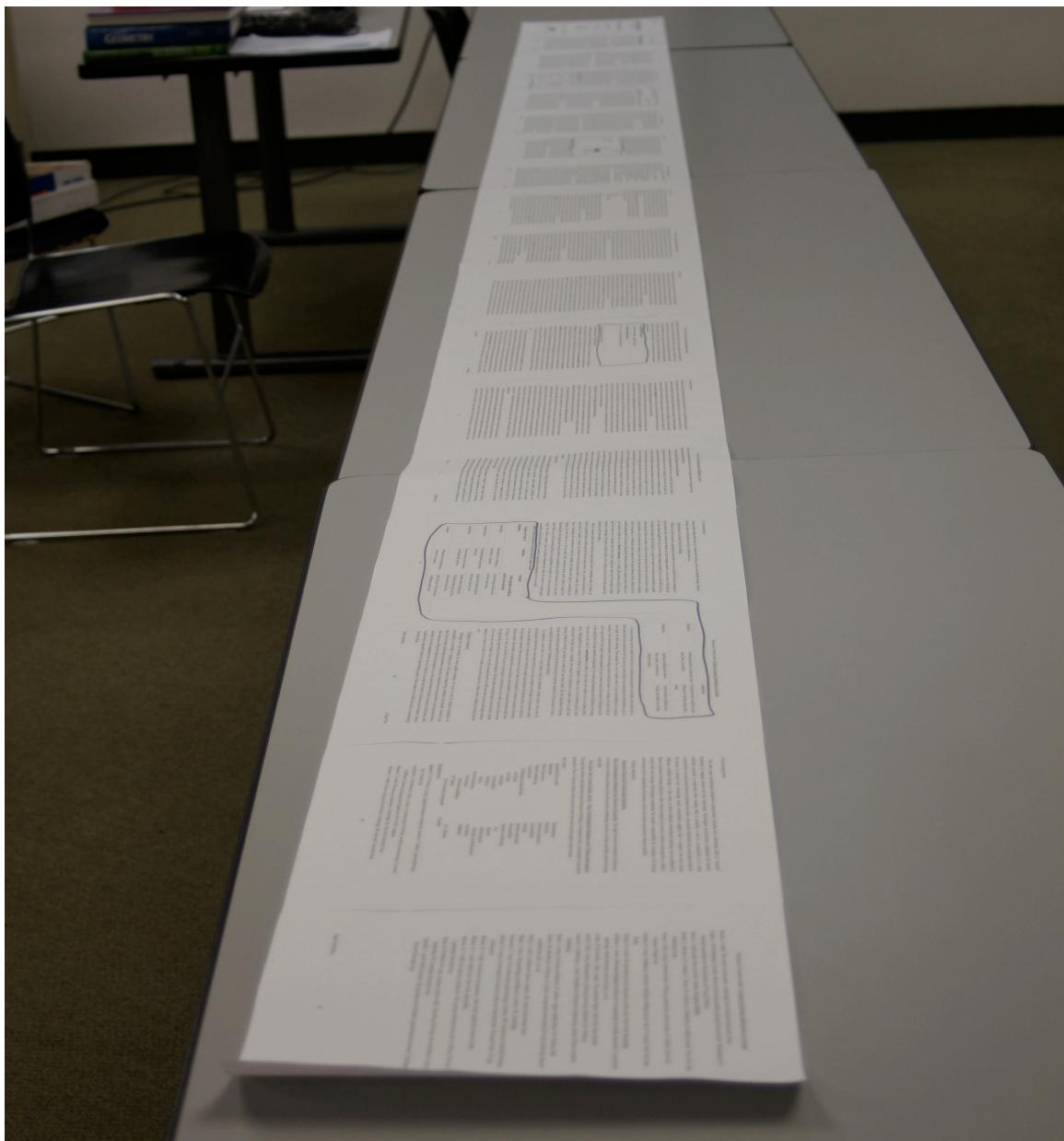
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They can unroll it...



...and see the whole thing.

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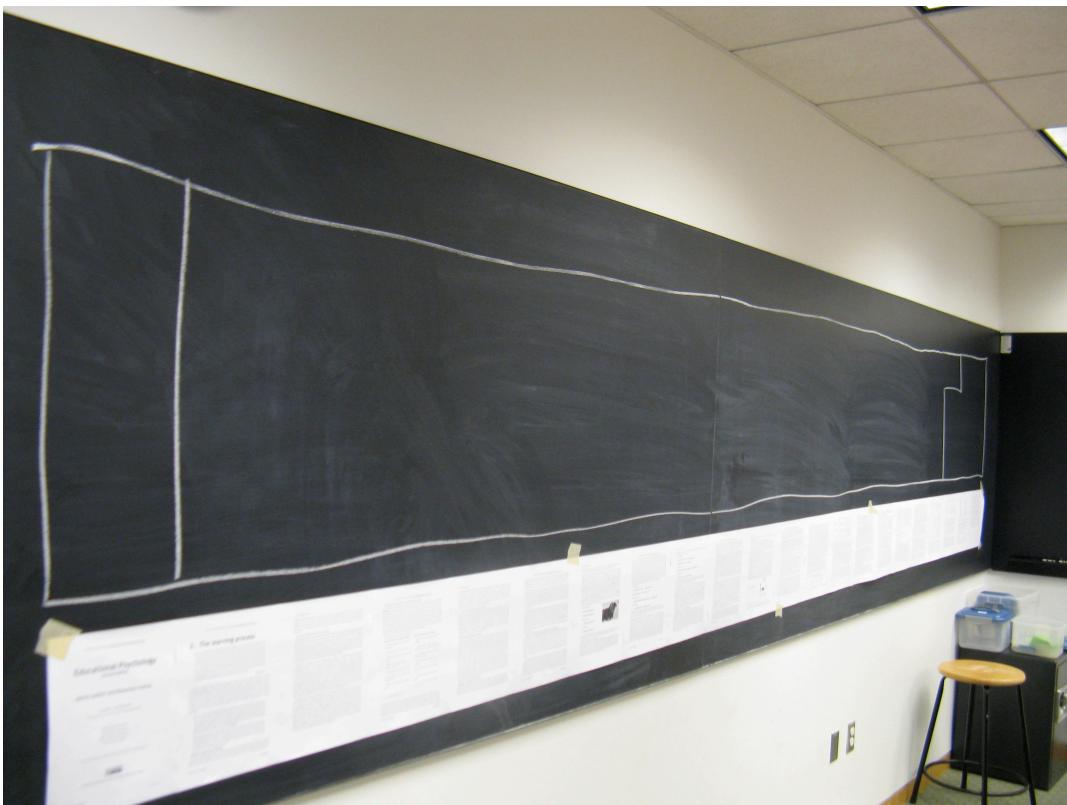
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They can use concrete thinking  
to drive comprehension and abstraction.



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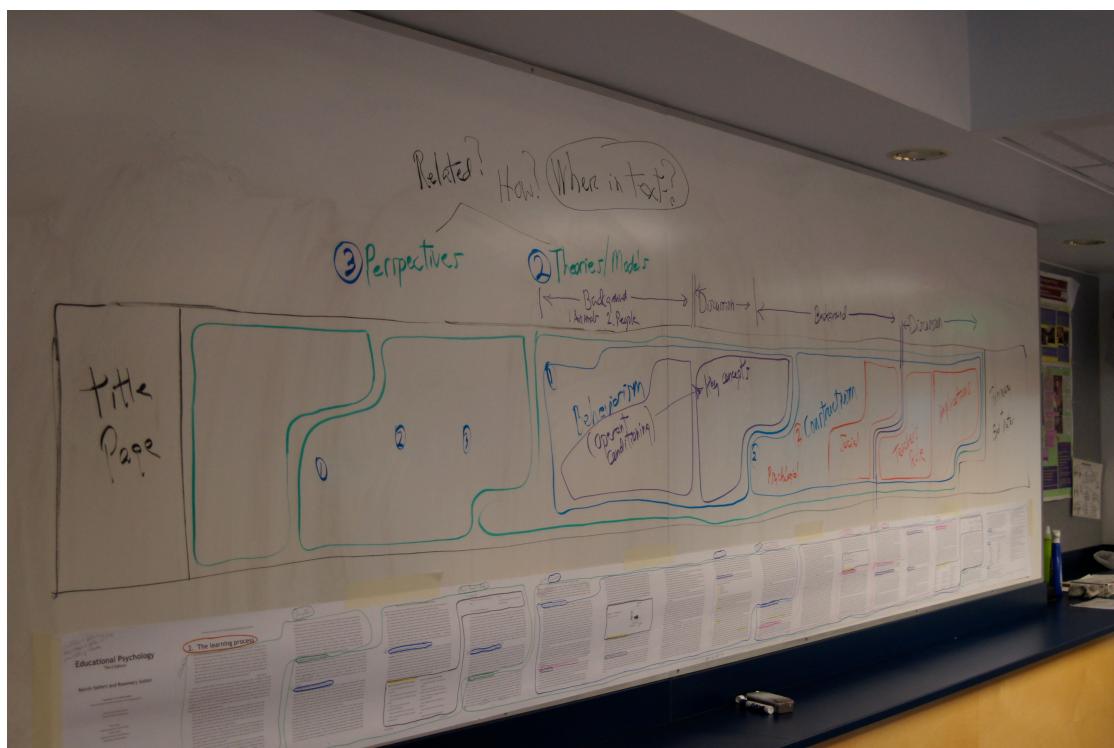
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- They can see how strategic thinking works.
  - They can see it as an unfolding process.
  - They can see it modeled explicitly<sup>1</sup>, in the concrete.
- They can see important cues for navigation and comprehension – and how to make the best use of them.
  - They can see the forest and the trees – the big picture, and the chunks and bits that make it up.
  - They can see the ways in which texts are structured and ideas are organized.
- They can see comprehension happening.



And they can see all of this in a single, panoramic view.

<sup>1</sup> The original, ancient meaning of “explicit” is *unfolded* or *unrolled* (*ex + plicare*), and thus *opened up*, *spread out*, and *wide-open to comprehension*. Likewise, the ancient meaning of “explain” (*ex + planare*) is to *spread out* something so that *all can see it* – i.e., so that it is *wide-open to comprehension*. These closely-related ancient images provide what is arguably the best answer to the modern question, “What should explicit instruction look like in the classroom?”

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They can work across wide swaths of content.



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<http://www.share2learn.com/textmapping.html>

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They can explore together.



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<http://athomewithmommaskyla.blogspot.com/2012/10/text-mapping-for-little-folks.html>

They can collaborate and think strategically.



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<http://www.share2learn.com/textmappingb.html>

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They can interact with books as physical spaces.



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They can *move* about freely.  
They can *think* expansively.



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<http://msmoreheadclass.blogspot.com/2013/09/text-mapping.html>

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They can *survey*<sup>2</sup> and *scan*<sup>3</sup>.



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<sup>2</sup> From Latin, *super + videre*, by way of the French *sur + veier*, the literal meaning of which is to view from above – as, for example, from the top of a hill (a mapmaker's perspective).

<sup>3</sup> From Latin, *scandere*. The original meaning had to do with counting the beats in music by raising and lowering a knee. From this came the idea of climbing, and so the image of taking the measure of a territory by pacing it. This is very different from the way we use the word today in the field of reading – i.e., to search for something specific [for example: <https://www.aacc.edu/tutoring/file/skimming.pdf> ]. The ancient meaning is descriptive and broadly encompassing; our modern meaning, in stark contrast, is extractive and narrowly focused.

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They can do a *real* picture walk.

And as they walk,  
they can engage and question and think aloud.



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<http://www.harmonyschools.com>

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They can learn by example – and then come to their own thinking about the topic at hand.



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<http://themiddleschoolmouth.blogspot.com/2012/05/textmapping.html>

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They can go their own way and form their own opinions.



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**Thank you for sharing this with your colleagues!**

They can work in teams  
and really dig in.



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<http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/doc/list/communications/contacts/51-245/>

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They can analyze and critique.



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They can share and explain.



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<http://leadingandreading.blogspot.com/2013/02/fun-4-all-text-mapping.html>

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They can work quickly, back and forth  
between different texts.



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They can work together to learn another language.



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They can see how to make the best use of reading tools for comprehension.



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All of which is to say, they can use concrete thinking to drive deeper learning. They can think expansively and strategically, engage through their senses, share their thinking, and learn to love the work of reading.



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<http://lifelearningblog.blogspot.com/2011/10/is-sarcasm-literary-device-mrs-dubose.html> | @adubose11

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*What will your students do with scrolls?*



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## Here's what teachers and students are saying about scrolls and textmapping:

*[With a scroll]... It is easier to understand the text. You can see it quicker than flipping pages.*

- ESL College Student,  
Los Angeles County, CA

*We have everything laid out before us and we just look from page to page. Doing the scroll makes us see how many pages there actually are....It helps me determine what's what as opposed to looking through the whole text. My eyes just go directly to what I'm looking for....*

- College Student, Los Angeles County, CA

*I have found one of the most powerful skills a reader can use in accessing content area material is textmapping.... I teach first grade and the kids benefit so much from these kind of concrete experiences.... The scroll allows them to see the piece as a whole.... Continual use allows kids to see the predictability of how content material is presented. Not only that, using scrolls sets up many easy collaborative jobs - and then, of course, follows sharing and discussion.*

- Pam Cucco  
First Grade Teacher  
Short Hills, NJ

*I like how the kids can look back through the story and keep thinking without turning pages. It is a very different approach to reading.*

- First Grade Teacher, Pennsville, NJ

*Active, global modes of teaching reading comprehension are rare.... This is a great way to address the weaknesses in reading comprehension, and to teach active/metacognitive reading skills.*

- Reading Specialist, Clayton, MO

more comments at: [www.textmapping.org/comments.html](http://www.textmapping.org/comments.html)

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## Do you already use scrolls and textmapping? Then *please...*

- ✓ Share this document with your colleagues!  
Get a copy: <http://www.textmapping.org/unrollingTheBook.html>
- ✓ Start a scrolls and textmapping [study group](#) at your school!
- ✓ Conduct [action research](#) in your classroom on the uses of scrolls and textmapping!
- ✓ Spread the word about scrolls and textmapping!
  - Share on social media.
  - Post to professional listservs.
  - Like and share blogs, pins, and tweets from other teachers.
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- ✓ Share information about scrolls and textmapping at staff meetings and professional conferences; write about them in newsletters for professional organizations to which you belong!
- ✓ Plan a textmapping workshop!  
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- ✓ Contact me! Let's work together to develop this!!