Guide to Chunking a Text

Step 1: Select a text
- Consider a text (see examples below) that is at grade level and that may be challenging for students to read independently. Examples:
  - Scientific article
  - Primary source document
  - Poem
  - Portion of a novel for a close reading

Step 2: Set a purpose for reading
- What are students looking for as they read?
- You may choose to have a purpose for Read #1 and another purpose for Read #2
  - Example: "The Gettysburg Address"
    - Read #1: Read to learn why the soldiers fought in the Civil War
    - Read #2: Read to learn what words and phrases Lincoln uses to honor the fallen soldiers

Step 3: Set up your document
- Decide how you want to break up the text into sections
  - Example
- Determine number of chunks you will need
- Use template to drop portions of the text into sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>The Gettysburg Address</th>
<th>Questions to consider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Executive Mansion, Washington, 1863</td>
<td>Who or what is this section about?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that &quot;all men are created equal&quot;</td>
<td>How long is Four score and seven years?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Here we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live</td>
<td>What words stand out to you in section 2? Highlight a word or two that seem powerful or important.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Here we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live</td>
<td>What is this section telling us? How do you know?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step 4: Determine your questions for each chunk
- The template can be used “as is” with the current questions, and/or
- You may choose to include a question about a particular word or phrase that may be challenging or important to emphasize
- You may ask students to write synonyms for particular words
- Suggested general questions that will aid in understanding the text:
  - Who or what is this sentence about?
  - What does the word "___" mean?
  - Who or what is this chunk about?
  - What new information does this chunk add?
  - What does the phrase "___" mean?
  - Who is the author referring to in this section?
  - What new information does this section add?

Step 5: Prepare to facilitate the chunked reading
- Determine if students will read the text digitally or on a paper copy
- Facilitate reading using a document camera or other projection tool