Literacy Strategy
GIST
Generating Interactions between Schemata and Text

GIST is helpful for teachers to use when students fail to read problems carefully before attempting to solve them (Cunningham, 1982). The task is to write a summary of the problem in 12 words or less. The student identifies the 12 most important words needed to solve the problem. The words capture the "gist" of the problem. A chart may be prepared with the word problem at the top and 12 blanks below to be completed by the students.

This strategy helps students to recognize information that is *not* essential to solving the problem. The teacher can model the strategy, then ask students to line out information that is not necessary to solve the problem. Through the use of this strategy, the students learn to distill the essence of the problem.