



A good reader is not a passive reader

THINK while you READ!

Help your student with reading comprehension strategies

It's fun, it's easy, and it helps your student become a better reader

Many students read words well but can't make sense of what they have read. These students decode text but lack the skill to become independent readers and critical thinkers. A student may read fluently and appear to understand the text, but in reality, the student has little idea of what he has just read.

Expert readers use multiple cognitive processes to comprehend text. They effortlessly shift from one comprehension strategy to another to gain understanding as they read text.

Some strategies used by expert readers have been identified and are listed on the right side of this page.

As parents and teachers, we can model how to use these strategies to help engage our students with text. These strategies may be used with any reading material: picture books, chapter books, fiction, nonfiction, and others.

You can show your child how to use these reading comprehension strategies by verbalizing what you are thinking while you are

reading aloud. Also ask your child what he is thinking as you read together. Simply creating dialog is one of best ways to boost the enjoyment of reading and improve reading comprehension.

Always remember to make reading a joyful adventure. Let common sense be your guide and do not impose rigid and intrusive rules about the use of these strategies. It is important for students to have time to read for the pure joy of reading. Make reading fun and make it a habit. It is one of the best investments you will make.

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August 2011

Reading Comprehension Strategies

- **Make Connections**
I use what I already know to create new knowledge.
- **Predict / Infer**
I use clues to predict what might happen next and to understand what is happening, even when the author doesn't use exact words.
- **Question**
I am constantly asking questions and looking for answers while I read.
- **Clarify**
I constantly monitor my understanding of what is happening and what is important.
- **Summarize**
I can state what the story is about in a few sentences.
- **Evaluate**
I decide if I like the material and the author's style and ideas.

Tips for Being a STAR Mystery Reader

#1 Do not forget your date and time, and do not be late: The students are waiting for YOU.

#2 Practice before you read, and bring several books to read.

#3 Hold the book so that the students can see the pictures.

#4 Remember to look at the students often as you read.

#5 Read what you love. The students will love it, too.

#6 Don't be afraid to be a ham. The children love funny voices, props, and costumes.

#7 Communicate with the teacher if you wish to bring

something unusual or something edible.

#8 Read something other than an "I-can-read-it-by-myself" book.

#9 Watch the text for clues for tone, mood, and pacing.

#10 Be flexible and enjoy the students, and they will enjoy you and your visit.