

Comprehension

Comprehension put quite simply is understanding. Comprehension is the most important part of reading. Fluency, vocabulary, and phonics are vital components and have a definite effect on comprehension.

Below are some ways to help your child comprehend (understand) what they have read.

Questions To Ask While Reading

CHARACTERS:

Who are the characters in the story? Think of their actions and what they said to determine what the characters are like?

SETTING:

When and where is the story taking place?

EVENTS:

What happened in the story? What caused it to happen? What did the author leave out and expect me to figure out? What was the result of these events?

CONTENT:

What do I know about this topic? What is the main idea of the story? How does one event lead to another? What conclusion can I draw?

RESPONSE:

What would I do? Do I agree with the character's actions? What was funny sad, or interesting? Does this remind me of something else I have read?

PREDICTION:

What do I think will happen next in the story? How do I think this problem will be solved?

Comprehension Check

Monitor Understanding

Step 1: Read part of a selection or story, stop and ask yourself, “**Is this making sense?**”

Step 2: If you answer “No,” then try one or more of these **fix-up strategies**:

- Read the sentence or paragraph again.
- Retell the sentence or paragraph in your own words.
- Ask a question or make a prediction.
- Read on and see whether the selection makes sense.

Visualizing

- Read a selection carefully.
- Look for words that tell about settings, actions, colors characters, or sounds.
- Use the writer’s words to visualize, or make a mental picture of the selection.

To visualize while I read, I can...

1. Write words that help me to make a mental picture.
2. Draw a picture of what I saw in my mind.

Retelling

After reading a selection or story, practice retelling the events that you read about in the selection. Include characters’ names, setting, plot, problem and conclusion.

Summarize

After reading a selection or story, summarize the story. Be sure to include the who, what, where, when, how, and why of the passage.