

Six Strategies to Improve Reading Comprehension

Research has shown that the following six strategies should be used to assist young readers in building meaning when they read. Readers build meaning and understanding by interacting with the text.

- *Making Connections*
- *Questioning*
- *Visualizing*
- *Inferring*
- *Determining Importance*
- *Synthesizing*



The ideas in this brochure are indebted to *Strategies That Work* by Stephanie Harvey and Anne Goudvis.

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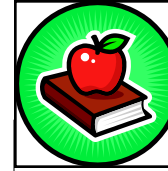


**Emerson Elementary School
Elmhurst District 205**

**Anita Rawlish
Reading Resource Teacher**

Phone: 630-834-5562

E-mail: arawlish@elmhurst.k12.il.us



Reading Resource

Reading with Your Child



*Strategies to help your
child build meaning
when reading at home.*

Grades K - 2

Comprehension Strategies

Making Connections

Relating what you've read to what you know, and to your thoughts and feelings (text-to-self).

Comparing what you've read to other texts (text-to-text); and to the world around you (text-to-world).

Prompts:

- "What does this remind you of?"
- "Is this similar to anything you've read before?"
- "How are you and this character similar?"

Suggested Literature:

The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant

Ira Sleeps Over by Bernard Waber



Questioning

Readers ask themselves questions throughout the text. This is done to check or confirm an understanding of the story. Questions propel readers forward in their thinking.

Prompts:

- "What would be a good question to ask here?"
- "Would you please think out loud?"
- "You're using some good thinking skills here."

Suggested Literature:

Leo the Late Bloomer by Robert Kraus

The Mitten by Jan Brett



Visualizing

Good readers create "mind pictures" as they read. Visualizing the characters, elements, or events of a story is critical to overall comprehension.



Prompts:

- "Close your eyes. What do you see in the picture in your head?"
- "Can you create a picture of this in your mind?"
- "Tell me more about your image?"

Suggested Literature:

The Napping House by Audrey Wood

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss

Inferring

Good readers are able to combine background knowledge and text knowledge as they read. This combination helps them make "educated guesses" about the content of the text throughout the reading process.



Prompts:

- "What is happening here?"
- "What makes you think that?"
- "How did you arrive at that idea?"

Suggested Literature:

Fly Away Home by Eve Bunting

Lyle, Lyle Crocodile by Bernard Weber

Determining Importance

Good readers are able to separate important information from unimportant information in the text. They can identify critical details and separate them from extraneous material.



Prompts:

- "What is the most important information here?"
- "What is the main information?"
- "Why do you think this is most important?"

Suggested Literature:

In the Small Pond by Denise Fleming

Slugs by Anthony D. Fredericks

Synthesizing

A process of combining ideas to form a new idea. It involves combining new information with existing knowledge to form an original idea.

Prompts:

- "What was this story about?"
- "What would you tell someone else about this story?"
- "What is the gist of this story?"

Suggested Literature:

Smokey Night by Eve Bunting

The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle

