Comprehension

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What is Reading Comprehension?

Comprehension is the ability to understand and make sense of what is being read. Grasping the meaning of the text, remembering details, and connecting ideas to their own experiences show a child's comprehension.

Why is Comprehension Important?

When students understand what they read or hear, they can remember it, think about it, talk about it, and connect it to what they already know.

Comprehension helps grow students' knowledge and view of the world.

Comprehension Skills By Grade

Kindergarten

- Talk about stories and facts from books
- Share their own ideas about what they hear
- Discuss books read aloud
- Characters?
- Setting?
- Problem/Solution?

First Grade

- Understand and talk about stories and facts
- Characters/Setting?
- Problem/Solution?
- Share personal ideas and thoughts
- Independently answer questions about books they hear and read

Second Grade

- Understand, discuss, and write about stories and facts
- Share their own ideas clearly through speaking and writing
- Independently talk and write about books they hear or read themselves

Third Grade

- Compare and contrast student's personal perspective and identity from that of the author.
- Ask & answer questions to show understanding of literal and nonliteral language in text.
- Use informational text features and literary text features to understand information.

Fourth Grade

- Refer to details and examples in texts when making inferences and summarizing
- Determine the theme or central idea of a story
- Determine the author's purpose (i.e., entertain, inform, persuade).
- Interpret information conveyed through text features.

Fifth Grade

- Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says
- Describe how and when characters, setting, conflict, resolution, events or ideas are introduced and how they change
- Interpret and evaluate information conveyed through text features.

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Build Comprehension Through Conversation

Frequent everyday conversations help children understand and use new ideas.

Talk About Books Together



Characters

- Who are the main characters?
- What is each main character like? How do you know?
- Do you feel the characters solved the problem well? Why or why not?
- How would this book be different if told from another character's point of view?



Setting

- Tell me about the setting of the story.
- Would you want to live in the setting? Why or why not?
- How does the setting change thorughout the story?
- How do the illustrations or pictures help you understand the story?



Plot

- What is the problem, and how was it solved?
- What would you have done to solve the problem? Why?
- What does the situation that the characters experience teach you about the people in your own life?
- What happens at the beginning, middle, and end of the story?



Other Questions

- Is the title of the book a good match for what you find inside? Why or why not?
- Was there a message or lesson in the story?
- What was the main idea of the story? (What the story was mostly about)
- Was this story fiction (fake) or non-fiction (true)?
- What did you learn from this text?

Try These Tips:

- **Ask open-ended questions like...**
  - "What do you think will happen next?"
- **Make connections:**
  - "Does this remind you of something we've done?"
- **Talk about feelings:**
  - "How did that character feel? What would you do?"
- **Use rich vocabulary in conversation and explain new words using synonyms**
- **Encourage curiosity with I wonder questions**
  - "I wonder why only some of the leaves are changing color."
- **What problems were solved?**
  - How were they solved?
  - How would you have handled the problem?
- **If you could change a part of the story, what would it be? Why?**
- **What was your favorite part(s) of the story?**