

Strategies to Enhance Reading Comprehension

ACCA desires their students to have rich, meaningful experiences with literature. To facilitate this goal, we teach students a variety of comprehension strategies. Some children intuitively utilize these strategies; some benefit from more specific instruction on what should occur internally while reading. The more a child reads and interacts with adults about books, the more apt he is to grow in both enjoyment and comprehension of books.

1. **Visualizing** *Good readers create mental images while reading.*

Encourage your child to make a motion picture in his head. As he reads, all five senses should be engaged.

"What do you see? Smell? Hear? Taste? Feel?"

2. **Connecting** *Good readers make connections between the book and his own life, the book and other books, and the book and the world.*

As your child reads, he should actively make personal connections based on his unique life experiences and knowledge.

"This reminds me of _____ (book, experience, event) because _____."

3. **Questioning** *Good readers ask questions before, during, and after reading.*

What, Who, When, Where, Why, and How are integrated with reading.

"Why do you think _____ happened?"

"I see _____ and I wonder _____."

4. **Predicting** *Good readers anticipate what will happen in the text.*

Students make predictions about the plotline and revise these while reading.

"I think I will learn _____ because _____."

So far we know _____. So I think _____ will happen next because _____."

5. **Inferring** *Good readers look for clues to understand how characters feel.*

Since the author does not always explicitly state his meaning, readers act as detectives to read between the lines.

"The character was feeling _____ because _____."

6. **Summarizing and Synthesizing** *Good readers summarize and retell main ideas from the story. Good readers identify overarching themes.*

Can your child extract the central concept from the paragraph, page, or chapter? Can he distinguish between details and big ideas?

"This is about _____. First...Next...Then...Finally..."

7. **Monitoring and Clarifying** *Good readers monitor their comprehension by clarifying words and ideas they don't understand.*

Encourage your child to keep track of his comprehension and fix any problems. When needed, strategies like rereading, researching reference material, visualizing, checking the pictures, etc. should be used to clarify meaning.

"I didn't understand _____ (word, sentence, paragraph), so I _____ (strategy used)."