

An Overview of Reading Comprehension

Comprehension is a skill that is life long. Comprehension is much more than being able to read the words from pages. Below is a very brief synopsis about the strategies that need to be taught to maximize comprehension skills. It is important to ask the types of questions that correspond to each of the strategies listed below. (*Why do you think the author ended it this way.....What did this part remind you of? What have you read previously that was similar to this? Why do you think the author made the character out to be this way? Why did the author choose this word? or use boldprint?*)

Decoding

Refers to the ability to use a variety of strategies to determine what a word is and what the word means.

Recall and Locate

Basic comprehension that requires simple recall of information from the text, locating specific information from the text and talk about the information from the text.

Reading Between the Lines

Reading between the lines is getting at the higher level thinking skills. It is wondering about the text read, making logical predictions and inferences about the text. It's trying to see different points of view.

Text Features

Making sense of a table of contents, index, bold print, bibliographies, chapters, titles, headings, and all of the ways a book is presented structurally.

Language Features

Understanding the relevance of phrases, various word choices the author uses, the images and understands why the various literary features are used.

The Author

Being able to determine why the author wrote the text. Make inferences about the author's intent within various events of the text. Understand the author's point of view and reason for writing the text. Understand the message in the text.

Connections

Being able to determine what the text or passages in the text remind them of or are similar to. Connections can be personal experiences or they can be similar to worldly, cultural, historical or social happenings. Connections can also be made to other books, movies, documentaries etc.