

Questioning to Understand

I'm asking questions and looking for answers

- Before reading
- During reading
- After reading



Thinking Stems:
I wonder...
What if...
Why...
I think I was confused when...
Who...

Making Connections

- Text to Self
- Text to Text
- Text to World

I use what I know to understand what I'm reading



Thinking Stems:
This reminds me of... because...
This reminds me of the book...
This reminds me of what I heard...

Inferring

I'm questioning as I read to help me draw conclusions, making predictions, and reflecting on my reading.

When the author doesn't answer my questions I must infer.



Thinking Stems:
Maybe...
Perhaps...
I think...
I'm guessing...
It means...

Visualizing

I create pictures in my mind as I read.

I see what I read.
I feel what I read.
I use my senses to help me make a movie in my mind.

Thinking Stems:
I'm visualizing...
I'm picturing...
I can imagine...
I'm seeing...



Synthesizing

I combine what I know with new information I read to help me understand the text.

I change my thinking along the way.

Thinking Stems:
Now I get it!...
At first I thought... but now I think...
My new thinking is...
I think the lesson or theme is...



Determining the Importance

I understand the main idea of the text and the author's message.

Thinking Stems:
The text is mainly about...
I learned...
The important details are...
I want to remember...



8 Key Comprehension Strategies

Make Connections

Connect what you read to what you already know.



Infer

Use your own schema and clues from the book to understand what you read.



Create Images

Create images in your mind as you read.



Ask Questions

Ask questions to help you understand.



Determine Importance

Think about the most important idea!



Synthesize

Bring ideas together to make a new idea.



Monitor Understanding

Check to make sure you are understanding what you read.



Use Fix-Up Strategies

Use strategies when you get stuck on a word.





Help Your Child Become a Better Reader



Questions to ask your child while reading fiction text

Who is the main character?

What was the setting?

What was the problem in the story and how was it solved?

What do you predict will happen next in the story?

Why do you think the author chose the title for the story?

Do you like the title of the story? Why or why not?

Can you think of a different title for the story?

Which character from the story would you choose to be your friend? Why?

What part of the story was the most exciting? Why?

Did you like the end? Why or why not?

Reading With Your Child- Before and During!

- * What story clues are in the title and in the pictures?
- * Is this selection fiction or nonfiction?
- * How do you know?
- * Why do you want to read this story?
.....
- * What do you think will happen next?
- * How do you feel about the main character?
- * Would you do things differently if you were the main character?
- * Does the story text make sense to you?
- * How do you think the story will end?
- * Is the author trying to teach you something?



After Reading With Your Child



When You Think You're Done,
You've Just Begun!

After enjoying a book with your child, (whether he reads to you, or you read to him) continue the experience by asking:

- * How did the story make you feel?
- * What did you like or dislike about the story?
- * Does the story remind you of any other story?
- * What were you wondering as you read?
- * Does this book make you think of anything else you've read?
- * What was your favorite part?
- * Were there any parts that surprised you?
- * What are you going to read next?

*Adapted from Johnson and Kefer,
"Catching Readers Before They Fall"