

Comprehension Instruction within the Literacy Block

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|----------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Skill Building | Shared & Modeled Reading | Writing |
| Guided Reading | Teacher Read Aloud | |

Comprehension instruction takes place primarily during the Modeled and Shared Reading block. During Guided Reading, students are supported as they use the strategies while reading texts at their instructional level. It is during independent reading that students have the opportunity to practice these strategies on their own while reading texts at their independent level.

Comprehension Strategies that Support Understanding:

- Activating Prior Knowledge/
Making Connections
- Create Mental Images/Visualizing
- Asking Questions
- Making Inferences/
Making Predictions
- Determining Importance
- Synthesizing Information
- Use "Fix-Up" Strategies
[Monitor/Clarify]

Resources for Parents

<http://www.readingrockets.org/books>

(Find books that will capture your child's imagination! Note the themed book lists and award winners.)

http://www.adlit.org/books_authors/

(Book list for grades 4-12)

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/3479>

(More information for you about comprehension strategies)

<http://www.rif.org/parents/tips/tip.aspx?View=11>

(Tips for Reading Aloud)

References:

<http://forpd.ucf.edu/strategies/stratText.html>

(Florida Online Reading Professional Development)

<http://reading.ecg.org> (Into the Book, Wisconsin Educational Communications Board)

Miller, D. (2002). *Reading with Meaning*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse Publishers.

Zimmermann, S., C. Hutchins. (2003). *7 Keys to Comprehension*. New York, NY: Three Rivers Press.

Reading Comprehension Instruction Grades 3-5

Focus Strategy: Asking Questions



What is "Asking Questions"?

Readers ask questions about the text and the author's purpose and look for information to clarify and extend their thinking before, during, and after reading.



STUDENT DEFINITION:

I ask questions to look for new information and to understand what I am reading.



Activities that Support this Strategy

- Encourage your child to ask questions about the world around them, even questions that you can't answer! (Why is the sky blue? Do fish sleep?) Share your questions.
- Look at the title of the book and the picture on the cover. Talk about or list questions that you have about the text (fiction or non-fiction) and encourage your child to do the same. As you read, try to find the answers to those questions.
- Support your child with sentence starters. Model what it means to be curious and question the text:
I wonder....
Hmmm...I don't get that. What does...mean?
I want to know
 who/what/where/when/why/how...
Why did the author...?
- Make a web of questions. Write the topic in a circle and draw lines off of the circle. At the end of each line write a question about that topic.

Books that Encourage Asking Questions

Both fiction and non-fiction texts can be used to encourage questioning. You can even read familiar favorites and ask questions that lead to new ideas, more questions, and discovery!

The pictures and the text in non-fiction books can be the basis for great "I wonders." (I wonder what sharks eat? I wonder how far away the moon is?)

Fiction books offer opportunities to ask questions about characters, setting, events, and author's purpose. (Why did that character do that? I wonder what...(character) will do next? I wonder what it is like to live there? Why did the author write this book?)

Remember: Keep reading aloud to your developing reader! This allows your child to focus on thinking about the text and using comprehension strategies.

