

Comprehension Instruction within the Literacy Block

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/

(Booklists grades 4-12)

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

(More information for you about comprehension strategies)

<http://www.rif.org/parents/tips/tip.mspx?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 Strategies: Determining Importance



What is Determining Importance?

Readers identify key ideas or themes as they read. Readers distinguish between important and unimportant information, they evaluate the text, the author's meaning, and their own thinking.



STUDENT DEFINITION:

I ask myself what is the most important information to understand the text and why.



Activities that Support

This Strategy

- Set a purpose for reading before they read.
- Look for non-fiction books. Pay attention to the layout of the book. Look at the title, bold headings, pictures, read captions and quotations, timelines, graphs and maps. These non-fiction features give valuable information about what is important.
- As you overview the features of the text, have your child generate questions to set your child on a quest for specific information that will direct his or her reading.
- Pictures often reflect the most important information on the page and the caption further highlights it.
- Look at the table of contents and glossary; these key words explain the essential concepts and vocabulary of the book.
- Use indexes to build more background knowledge.
- Have your child complete...
I think this is really important, because...

Books that Encourage

Determining Importance

- Non-fiction books work wonderfully for this strategy, such as Eyewitness Books.
- Read magazines like : *Time for Kids*, *National Geographic for Kids*, *Ranger Rick*, *Zoo Books*, *Calliope: World History for Young People*, *Kids Discover*, *Cobblestone: The History Magazine for Young People*, *Weekly Reader*, and the local Newspaper. Many offer on-line versions as well.

Note: As students are learning to use comprehension strategies, reading aloud or sharing the reading is more appropriate than having your child read the entire text aloud or independently.

