

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:
Use "Fix-Up"
Strategies
[Monitor/Clarify]



What is Use "Fix-Up" Strategies? [Monitor/Clarify]

Good readers are aware of when they understand and when they don't. If they have trouble understanding specific words, phrases, or longer passages, they use a wide range of problem-solving strategies.



STUDENT DEFINITION:

When I don't understand what I read, I do certain things to make sure that I understand before I continue reading.



Activities that Support

This Strategy

Some ways to encourage your child to monitor and repair comprehension when meaning starts to break down include:

- *Notice* when understanding is lost
- *Stop and go back* to clarify thinking.
- *Reread* to enhance understanding
- *Read ahead* to clarify meaning
- *Identify and talk about* what is confusing about the text

When your child comes to a word he or she doesn't know, encourage your child to:

Identify which words he or she has trouble reading

Use a "Fix-Up" Strategy

- Use phonics, letter sounds or patterns
- Look at the illustrations for clues
- Break the word into parts to find a smaller word that is familiar
- Read to the end of the sentence or paragraph to see if that helps

Check for Meaning

- When you figure out the word, reread it in the sentence
- Does the sentence make sense?

Books that Encourage

Use "Fix-Up" Strategies (Monitor/Clarify)

Your child should read daily from a wide variety of genres, both fiction and nonfiction text at his or her independent reading level. The opportunity to practice comprehension strategies is crucial in the development of a proficient reader.

Proficient readers monitor their comprehension and use "fix-up" strategies when breakdowns in understanding occur.

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.

