

SPECTRUM OF THRIVING READER BEHAVIORS, ATTITUDES, AND UNDERSTANDINGS

A sampling of some of the behaviors, attitudes, and understandings you might monitor, document, and analyze.

Surface Structure

- Matches letters and sounds
- Develops phonemic awareness
- Uses the graphophonic cuing system to help construct meaning from print

Language

- Uses entire linguistic repertoire for meaning-making
- Uses integrated cueing system—syntactic, semantic, and graphophonic—to make sense of print
- Self-monitors miscues
- Regards home language as a resource across all content areas
- Recognizes bilingualism as an asset

Volume

- Reads extensively at school and at home
- Settles into personal, comfortable reading rhythm and routine
- Develops identity as a reader
- Builds empathy
- Enjoys discussing books with teacher and peers

Fluency

- Reads orally with expression
- Reads at a pace that sounds like conversation
- Reflects the elements of prosody—the music of language

Knowledge Acquisition

- Activates and builds background knowledge
- Merges thinking with text to turn information into knowledge
- Reads, writes, talks, and thinks across the curriculum (content literacy)
- Researches questions; follows a line of inquiry
- Comes to care and take action

Comprehension

- Engages in a dynamic thinking process to construct meaning from print
 - Grasps literal meaning of text
 - Reflects understanding through retelling
 - Uses comprehension strategies flexibly to enhance understanding. Specifically:
 - » Connects new to known
 - » Asks questions
 - » Infers and visualizes meaning
 - » Determines importance
 - » Summarizes and synthesizes
 - Monitors for meaning and applies fix-up strategies for clarification
 - Reads critically with a thoughtful eye and a skeptical stance
- [See Comprehension Continuum on p. 26.]

Genre & Format Knowledge

- Navigates nonfiction text features, text structures, graphic features, and infographics.
- Recognizes different nonfiction text types—essay, biography, feature writing, procedural—and fiction—realistic, historic, mystery, fantasy, sci-fi, etc.
- Distinguishes formats—series books, graphic novels, picture books, joke books, etc.
- Attends to the form, structure, white space, and figurative language of poetry
- Navigates and researches digital text online and develops digital citizenship



Vocabulary Development

- Builds word knowledge through voluminous reading
- Uses context clues to infer the meaning of unfamiliar words and ideas
- Recognizes appropriate grammatical syntax
- Stops to figure out words when meaning breaks down
- Skips unfamiliar words when they do not disrupt meaning
- Understands parts of speech and their purposes
- Uses prefixes and suffixes to crack open meaning

Text Selection

- Considers interest
- Explores genre
- Searches for text worth thinking and talking about
- Follows teacher/peer recommendations
- Peruses front and back covers; flips through book
- Chooses appropriate reading level