

Reading Comprehension Strategies

<p>Make Connections</p> <p>What connections do I make as I read?</p> <p>Good readers notice pieces of text that relate to or remind them of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their lives, past experiences, and prior knowledge • Other books, articles, movies, songs, or pieces of writing • Events, people, or issues <p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That reminds me of... • This made me think of... • I read another book that... • This is different from... • I remember when... 	<p>Visualize</p> <p>Good readers create pictures in their minds while they read.</p> <p>While reading, note places where you get a clear picture in your mind that helps you understand the text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can picture... • I can see the... • I can visualize... • The movie in my head shows... <p>Use your senses to connect the characters, events, and ideas to clarify the picture in your head.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can taste/hear/smell the... • I can feel the... 	<p>Ask Questions</p> <p>Good readers ask questions before, during, and after reading to better understand the author and the meaning of the text.</p> <p>Ask questions of the author, yourself, and the text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the author trying to say? • What is the message of this piece? • Do I know something about this topic? • What do I think I will learn from this text? • How could this be explained to someone else? • What predictions do I have about this reading?
<p>Infer</p> <p>How do I read between the lines?</p> <p>When the answers are “right there,” good readers draw conclusions based on background knowledge and clues in the text.</p> <p>Ask yourself:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I wonder why... • I wonder how... • I wonder if... <p>Find information from the text that might be clues to the answers and use these with your background knowledge for possible answers.</p>	<p>Determine Importance</p> <p>What’s the big idea? So what?</p> <p>Good readers look for things that help them identify big ideas and why they are important.</p> <p>Look at text features for clues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Titles and headings • Bold print • Pictures and captions • Graphs and charts • Chapter objectives and questions <p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The big idea is... • Most important information is... • So far I’ve learned... • The author is saying... • This idea is similar to... 	<p>Synthesize</p> <p>How do I use what I’ve read to create my own ideas?</p> <p>Good readers combine new information from their reading with existing knowledge in order to form new ideas or interpretations.</p> <p>Synthesis is creating a single understanding from a variety of sources.</p> <p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and contrast what I’m reading with what I already know or other sources of information. • Think of new ways to use this information. • Can connections I make across this text help me to create new generalizations or new perspectives?

Adapted from the work of Beal, Keene, and Tovani