

Reading Strategies

Asking Questions

Asking questions before, during, and after reading can help you to make sense of the text and to better understand the author. Good readers ask themselves questions and then try to answer these questions with information from the text. As readers we can ask three types of questions. The first type of question is literal, which means the answer can be directly found in several places throughout the text. The second type of question is inferential, which means you have to connect clues or information in the text to something you already know in order to get an answer. Finally the last type of questions is evaluative. Evaluative questions ask about how accurate the information is, how believable the storyline was, the author's message or point of view, and the beliefs or biases the text may be expressing.



- How does this text compare with others that explore the same issue?
- What is the author trying to say?
- What information did I use to understand the main character?
- What information has the author directly told me about the character?
- What do I think is going to happen next?

Making Inferences

Making inferences is about taking information from the text, along with personal experience or knowledge, to understand what's happening in the text. Good readers put what they already know together with what is written in the text to understand the total picture of the text. When you make inferences, you increase your understanding by making judgments, drawing conclusions and reasoning. As you are reading you will find yourself confirming or altering your inferences as new information presents itself.



Inferences made about fiction texts:

- The moral of the story
- The setting of the story
- The character's traits, moods, motivations, values or beliefs
- The author's or character's bias or perspective
- The missing details
- The preceding events

Inferences made about non-fiction texts:

- The main ideas
- The missing details
- People's moods, motivations, values or beliefs
- The author's or people's bias or perspective
- The preceding events

- What do I think is really happening here?
- My own experience tells me the author thinks...
- What clues does the author give me?
- By leaving out, or only including, certain information the author tells me...

Self-Monitoring

Good readers monitor their comprehension during reading. Self-monitoring involves knowing when the text you are reading is not making sense and controlling one's own comprehension. Self-monitoring is an important metacognitive tool for improving reading comprehension. This means understanding when meaning breaks down, identifying what it is you do not understand and using appropriate strategies to restore meaning. These strategies include such things as asking oneself whether the reading is making sense, rereading, reading more slowly, reading ahead, figuring out the meaning of unfamiliar words, or asking someone for assistance.



- Did that make sense?
- What is the purpose for reading this text?
- Did that word look right, sound right and make sense?
- I don't fully understand that passage, I think I need to re-read that passage again.
- There are a lot technical words in this passage, I think I will need to read a bit slower to help me comprehend it better.

Predicting

Predicting involves thinking ahead while reading and anticipating information and events in the text. As a good reader, you will use your prior knowledge and clues from the text to logically guess what will happen or what information the text will contain. As you are reading you will monitor your predictions and adjust or confirm them as needed to better understand the text.



- How does my prediction connect to my within-text knowledge?
- Does my prediction connect logically to my knowledge of the world?
- What evidence supports my prediction?
- What does the book cover tell me about the text?
- What will happen in the text?
- What do I already know about the topic?
- Has my prediction been confirmed? What parts of my predictions were changed as I continued to read the text?

Summarizing

When you create a summary for a text, you reduce the text to its main ideas. Summarizing is a good strategy to help you understand the author's message and the ideas that support that message. It is also a useful tool to help you understand and remember the most important details.



- What are the main events? And in what order did they happen?
- What are the most important details that I need to remember?
- What is the main idea or opinion? What points support that idea?
- Can I identify the who, what, when, where, why and how?
- What is the author's message?
- What information is irrelevant or unnecessary?

Visualising

Good readers think about what they are reading and can make pictures in their mind. As you read, use all your senses (sight, sound, taste, smell and touch) to visualise a more holistic picture in your mind. By making pictures in your mind, you are more likely to remember what you have read.



- The movie in my head shows me...
- What sounds do I hear?
- As I am reading this passage I see...
- What words has the author used to show me what the setting or the characters look like?
- What are the pictures/scenes in my mind?
- What do I hear, taste, smell, see or feel?
- What do the characters, the setting, and the events of the story look like in my mind?