



Tutoring Tips

Reading Comprehension

“Comprehension occurs *during* the act of reading” (Pearson, 1992). It is the ability to understand and gain meaning from what is read. Comprehension is more than just decoding words or recalling the information of the book. Often students can repeat information or facts from the book without understanding the meaning.

Well-designed comprehension questions can be a valuable tool in promoting students’ understanding of what they read.

Below is a list of possible questions to use in your tutoring sessions:

Questions Before You Read

- Can you look at the pictures and predict what you think will happen in this book?
- What makes you think that?
- What characters do you think might be in the story?

Questions During Reading

- What do you think will happen next?
- Can you predict how the story will end?
- As you read, what are you wondering about?
- Can you put what you’ve just read in your own words?

Questions After Reading

- Can you remember the title?
- In your opinion, was it a good title for this book? Why or why not?
- Were your predictions about the story correct?
- If there was a problem did it get solved?
- If you were _____, how would you have felt?
- What was your favourite part of the story? Why?
- If you could change one thing in the story, what would it be and why?
- Is there a character in the story like you? How are you alike?

Tutoring tips are provided by School Liaisons:
Pamela Dawson, Dagmar Kafka, Linda O’Reilly & Lynne Tolland