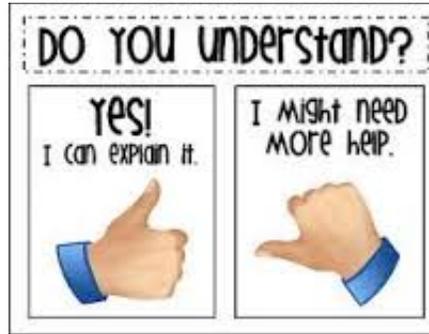


## TRIED AND TRUE COMPREHENSION CHECK IN STRATEGIES

Linda O'Reilly, ONE TO ONE Liaison for Zone 6

**Use an informal comprehension check in:** To test comprehension quickly, try one of these quick ways to check in with students' comprehension.

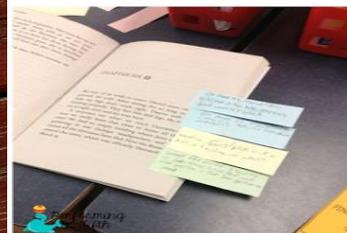
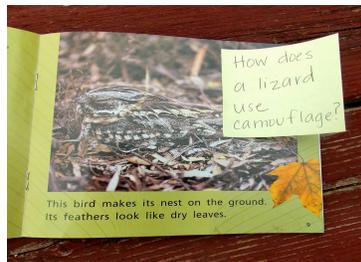


Teach a simple hand signal routine.



Let students use this 'Do you understand?' symbol. Ask students to put the symbol on the page to indicate where comprehension has broken down. You will find symbols on the next page that you can cut out. You can paste them onto sticky notes if you want to get really fancy!

Use sticky notes to indicate where you would like students to stop for a quick retell or to ask a specific question about the text. You can also use sticky notes to record a retelling. The sticky notes can be referred to again and again.



**Test comprehension with student-friendly questions:** After reading, test students' comprehension with carefully crafted questions, using simple sentences and key vocabulary from the text. These questions can be at the:

- Literal level (Why do the leaves turn red and yellow in the fall?)
- Interpretive level (Why do you think it needs water?)
- Applied level (How much water are you going to give it? Why?)

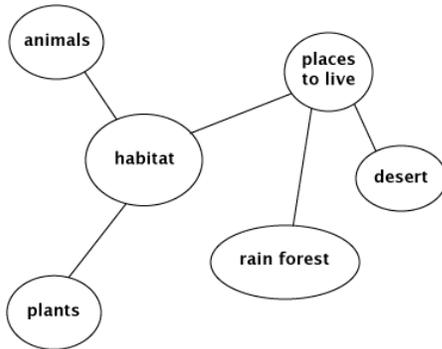
**Check in with comprehension with questions that require higher-level thinking:**

- What ideas can you add to...?
- Do you agree? Why or why not?
- What might happen if...?
- How do you think she felt...?

**Check in with comprehension by asking students to summarize:** Ask students to use the following strategies to summarize, orally, what they have read:

- Retell what you read, but keep it short.
- Include only important information.
- Leave out less important details.
- Use key words from the text.

**Check in with critical vocabulary before reading the text:** On the white board start with a circle with the critical vocabulary word in the center — for example, "habitat". Write down what students associate with the critical vocabulary word — for example, "places to live," "desert," "rainforest" etc.



Volcano  
Lava  
Surprise  
**Ash  
Eruption**

**Check in with critical vocabulary with a word splash:**

A word splash is a collection of 3-5 key words (critical vocabulary) from a book or chapter that students are about to read. The words are 'splashed' on the white board. Begin the conversation with this question: "What do you already know about the words?"



DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

<p><b>YES!</b> I can explain it.</p> 	<p>I might need <b>MORE HELP.</b></p> 
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