

Houghton Mifflin

5 Comprehension Strategies & 18 Comprehension Skills

5 Comprehension Strategies

Predict/Infer

- Think about the title, the illustrations, and what you have read so far.
- Tell what you think will happen next or what you will learn.
- Try to figure out things that the author does not say directly.

Problem Solve: If students have difficulty making reasonable predictions, guide them in looking for clues in the title and the beginning text. Tell them that thinking about what they have just read and about any background knowledge they have will help them think about what will happen next.

Monitor/Clarify

- Ask yourself if what you are reading makes sense or if you are learning what you want to learn.
- If you don't understand something, reread, read ahead, or use the illustrations.

Problem Solve: If students have difficulty monitoring as they read, tell them to stop and think about the story as you continue reading. Tell them that thinking about how well they understand what they are reading will help them understand and enjoy reading more.

Evaluate

- Ask yourself:
- How do I feel about what I read?
 - Do I agree or disagree with it?
 - Am I learning what I wanted to know?
 - How good a job has the author done?

Problem Solve: If students have difficulty evaluating the story/nonfiction selection, guide them with questions that require students to give opinions about the selection. Explain that when giving opinions, they are evaluating the selection.

Question

- Ask questions that can be answered as you read or after you finish reading.
- Predict a question that you think will be answered. Read to find out if it is.

Problem Solve: If students have difficulty coming up with questions, have them think about the story and discuss things that they

want to know more about. Model for them how to formulate questions.

Summarize

- Think about the main ideas or the important parts of the selection.
 - **Fiction:** Who are the main characters? Where does the story take place? What is the problem? What happens in the beginning, middle, and end?
 - **Nonfiction:** What is the topic? What kind of information does the author tell about the topic? What details are used to make his idea clear? What point is the author making about the topic?
- Tell in your own words the important things you have read.

Problem Solve: If students have difficulty summarizing the story/nonfiction selection, use a story or main idea/details map to chart the key information needed to summarize. Then have students use the information on the chart to summarize the selection.

18 Comprehension Skills*

1. Story Structure
2. Fantasy and Realism
3. Predicting Outcomes
4. Comparison and Contrast
5. Fact and Opinion
6. Categorize and Classify
7. Making Judgments
8. Topic/Main Idea/Details
9. Problem Solving
10. Making Inferences
11. Drawing Conclusions
12. Text Organization
13. Cause and Effect
14. Making Generalizations
15. Following Directions
16. Sequencing Events
17. Author's Viewpoint
18. Noting Details

* The **Guiding Questions** throughout the shared selections help students begin to use comprehension skills before they are an explicit target skill or continue to apply comprehension skills after they have been taught as a target skill.