

What are Reading Strategies?

Reading Strategies are what good readers use to work out new words and understand what they are reading.

Adjusting Reading Rate

This text is difficult or new to me. I will slow down my rate of reading so I can understand it better.

This text is easy or familiar to me. I can read this part quickly.

Comparing

When I am comparing I can look and see what is different.

- This text is similar/ different to another text I read because ----
- The characters ---- and ---- are alike because ---- but different because ----
- This text is ---- than the last text I read by this author.

Consulting a Reference

I will use a dictionary to look up the meaning of this word.

I can use an encyclopaedia or website to find out more about this topic.

Creating Images

Making a picture in my head as I read can help me understand a text better.

- I think this looks like ----
- When I read this I see in my mind ----
- When I read this I hear in my mind ----
- When I read this I see ---- and it makes me feel ----
- When I read the first paragraph I had an image of ---- but this has changed after reading the next paragraph and now I see ----

Determining Importance

I can understand the main ideas of the text and what the author's message is.

- I think this part is very important because ----
- I will underline the word ---- because it is a key word.
- The main point of that paragraph is ----
- I think this is the climax of the story because ----

Inferring

Sometimes as I read I need to make inferences. When the author doesn't answer my questions, I must infer.

- Reading between the lines I think that ---- because ----
- I think this means ---- because ----
- I think she was trying to say ---- because ----
- I think this character will ---- because it says in the text ----
- I think this story was set long ago because ----

Making Connections

Sometimes when I read I can make a connection to something I already know.

- This text reminds me of a time when I ----
- This text reminds me of another story in which ----
- This text reminds me of a story I read in the newspaper or heard on TV whereby

Monitoring Comprehension

I know how to use different ways to help me when I get stuck on what the meaning of a text is. When I get stuck on a word or when I get confused I can:

- Use what I know to think about the word
- Reread
- Read on
- Use my questions and connections

Prediction

Thinking about what might happen in the story and looking at the clues in the text and pictures will help me understand what it is about.

- From what I already know about ----- I think this will be about ----
- Looking at the pictures I predict ----
- Knowing this author, I think this piece will be -----
- In five years' time I think this character will be -----
- From the title I think that -----
- After reading chapter one I know that ----

Reading on and Rereading

This word/text is difficult or new for me. I will read on to the end of the sentence/paragraph to see if I can work it out.

This sentence/section does not make sense to me. I will reread it to see if I can understand it better.

Scanning

Scanning helps me find information in a text, such as contents, illustrations and index.

- Scanning this index/contents page I see which page/chapter I need to read in order to find out about --- is ---.
- Scanning this piece, I think ---- will be a main character because I see his name repeated a number of times.

Self-Questioning

Asking questions helps me understand a text. Remember to ask questions before, during and after you read.

- I wonder why ----?
- I wonder does the author mean ----?
- I wonder where ----?
- How could that be?
- What is that mean?
- After reading those paragraphs, were there any parts I didn't understand and need to re-read?

Skimming

If I quickly flick through the text I can get an overall idea of what the text is about.

- I think this report will be useful for my project because ----
- Glancing through the pictures ----- I think this story will be about ----
- I need to read this bit ----- because I think this is the part where I will find out about

Summarising and Paraphrasing

When I summarise I can think about what I have read and then focus on the important elements.

- The main idea of this piece was ----
- In my own words this story was about ----
- The author says ----. In my own words this means ----.

Synthesising

When I use all my strategies to combine what I know with new information to understand the text I am synthesising.

- Now I get it!
- This makes me think of.....
- I learned that
- I understand this because
- Using all the strategies I know, I think this is about....
- So this bit helps me understand