



## Comprehension Strategies

There are seven comprehension strategies that help assist proficient readers in understanding the text when reading the words alone does not give sense of the meaning of the text.

1. **Activate Prior Knowledge:** Activating background knowledge to make connections between new and known information. Many classrooms refer to this in three ways, text-to-self, text-to-text, text-to-world, (Keene and Zimmerman, 2007).
2. **Creating Mental Images:** Readers create mind pictures as they read, as they visualize actions, characters or themes. Using picture books at all age's helps creates a bridge to help students see how words and images connect in making meaning.
3. **Asking Questions:** Proficient readers are always asking questions while they read.
4. **Drawing inferences:** Proficient readers use their knowledge about a topic and the information they have gathered in the text to make predictions about what might happen next. Teachers demonstrate or model through think alouds when they stop and predict what will happen next to show how inferring is essential for comprehending the text.
5. **Determining Importance:** Readers must continually sort through and prioritize information. Teachers support their students by helping them sift through the sea of words that is found in non-fiction text, like bullets and headings, as well as verbal cues.
6. **Repairing or rereading when meaning breaks down:** Proficient readers do not plow ahead when something does not make sense - they stop and use "Fix Up" strategies to restore their understanding.
7. **Summarizing and Synthesizing:** This is the most challenging of all of the comprehension strategies because it requires the reader to combine elements of connecting, questioning and inferring. This strategy takes the students to not just understanding the text but to make meaning with it to their world.