

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Based on our most recent test results, I've identified that your child is struggling with comprehending what they have read. Talking about books and reading DAILY is an important tool in expanding your child's reading skills. Reading with comprehension is more than being able to answer simple questions about a story that has been read. It is important that parents support the processes of inferring, synthesizing, analyzing, and critiquing at home.

The suggested questioning strategies on the next page can guide you in facilitating meaningful discussions that develop good comprehension skills at home.

It is suggested that you engage in discussion through asking some of these questions AT LEAST 3 times per week after reading with your child.

Strategies for Expanding Meaning

Inferring	Definition To arrive at a decision or opinion using your own knowledge and clues from the text.	Example If a story states that a boy "woke up and made himself something to eat." You could ask, "what meal did the boy eat?" Students would use the clue in the text "woke up and ate" and their own knowledge (I know the meal I eat when I wake up is called breakfast) to determine that the boy ate breakfast .
Summarizing	Definition To put into your own words, a shortened version of the spoken or written material.	Example After reading The Three Billy Goats Gruff you may ask "In general, what was this story about?" Students should respond by briefly retelling the important points of the story in their own words. They may respond with something along the lines of, "The Three Billy Goats Gruff is about 3 goats who were hungry because all of their grass was gone so they had to trick a troll to get across the bridge to eat some new grass."
Synthesizing	Definition A process where students merge new information with prior knowledge to form a new idea, perspective, or opinion.	Example To arrive at a decision or opinion using their own knowledge and clues from the text. You might ask "Is there anything you understand in a new way from reading this text?" Students may respond with, "I know Dr. Seuss is telling us to take care of the trees in the Lorax. I think he wants us to think about how we can take care of our environment. Things I could do at school would be to pick up trash on the playground and help keep the hallways clean!"

examples of Questions for Rich Discussion:

Inferring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Can you predict what is going to happen next? Why did you make that prediction? Can you point to something in the book that helped you make that prediction? OR What do you already know that helped you make that prediction?-Why did (the character) do that?-What did the author mean by _____?-What's going to happen next?-(Character name) must be feeling _____. Are there any clues that help us know that?
Summarizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-In general, what is this story about?-What is the problem to be solved in this story? Is there a solution?-What has happened so far?-What do you wonder after reading so far?-What is the most important point in this story or passage?
Synthesizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Is there anything that you understand in a new way from reading this story?-What idea's (concepts or feelings) are most interesting to you? Why?-Does (a historical event or personal experience) make more sense after reading this?-Does this book make you think of anything that has happened to you? If so, what?-Does this story remind you of anything you have read?
Analyzing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-What things would make everyone like this book?-In what ways does the author make you feel as if you were there?-What are some examples of rich, colorful, or great language that make this a good passage to read?-What are the critical points in the plot? How does the story unfold?
Critiquing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Would people in your life act this way?-What is unbelievable about this text?-Should other kids read this? Why or why not?-What important information is missing?-What would have made this story more interesting to read?-What are the words or phrases that you really liked or disliked?
Basic Recall Explicit Questioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Who is the main character in the story?-Who are the other characters in the story?-What is your favorite part of the chapter or book?-Describe your favorite character.-Where do you think the story takes place? Why do you think that?-When do you think the story takes place? Why do you think that?-What is the problem in this story?-How is the problem solved?-Why do you think the author wrote this story? What did he/she want you to learn?