I Read It, But I Don't Get It

Is It Reading?

Are you reading or just saying the words?

Are you still confused (or more confused) after reading?

- Reading isn't just knowing the words – reading is thinking……
  - You need to construct meaning. It doesn't just happen.

How Do I "Construct" Meaning?

In order to construct meaning, readers need to use different strategies

Reading Strategies

- Identify Purpose
- Recognize text Structure and Organizational patterns
- Use Background Knowledge
- Ask Questions
- Draw Conclusions and make Inferences
- Monitor comprehension and use "Fix-Up" strategies
- Create sensory Images

Identifying the Purpose

Knowing the purpose helps to determine what is important

- – Know what you are going to use information for
- – Saves time
- – Know what to skip

Text Structure and Organization

- Section headings
- Text conventions – **bold**, *italic,* underline, all CAPS
- Vocabulary - highlighting
- "Learn" – SOL purpose
- Examples
- Think and Discuss
- Practice
  - Guided
  - Independent
  - Problem Solving

Using Background Knowledge

What is background knowledge?

- Prior learning
- Similar to another course
- Happened in personal life
- Related to something else
  - connections

Using Background Knowledge

When reading, think: "this reminds me of ...."

- Helps to make sense of new information
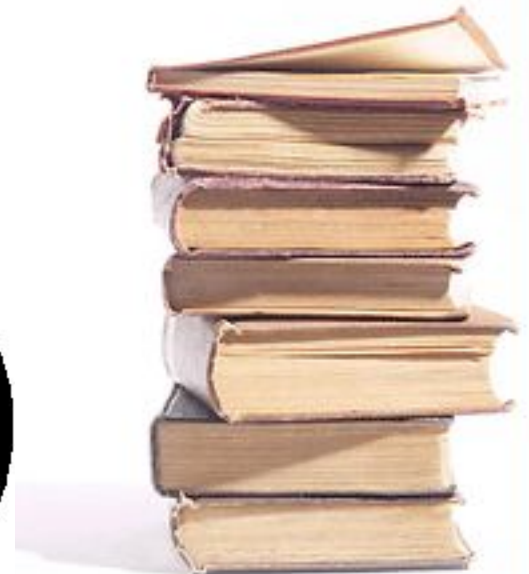- Helps with memory of new information

Using Background Knowledge

Memory

All this jibberish goes in, where do I put it?

Think of the brain as a filing cabinet and background knowledge as an existing file folder

I wonder.....

What do you wonder?

Questioning

Good readers constantly question the text

- Before reading
- During reading
- After reading

Questioning

Questions before reading:

- Give a purpose for reading – to answer the questions

- Focus the reader on the text while looking for answers – the mind is less likely to wander

Questioning

Questions during reading:

- To clarify information learned or missed

- To wonder why something happens

Questioning

Questions after reading:

- Encourage more thinking and deeper analysis
- Lead reader to make inferences
- May lead to further reading/research

Inferences

Infer…….who!?!?

An inference is a conclusion formed by reasoning based on facts or previously stated information

Monitor Comprehension

- Good readers know when they are making sense of their reading and they know when they are confused.

- Good readers don't ignore their confusion. They do something to help themselves.

Monitor Comprehension

- When reading, you should have two voices inside your head
    - **Reciting voice** – reading the words
    - **Interacting voice** – making connections, asking questions, agreeing/disagreeing, combines with pictures

- Listen to voices to know if you understand

Fix-Up Strategies

"When I get stuck, I quit reading….."

Good readers use Fix-Up Strategies to help themselves get unstuck

Fix-Up Strategies

- Re-read
- Make a connection between the text and background knowledge
- Make a prediction
- Stop and Think
- Ask a question
- Write about what you have read
- Visualize
- Use print conventions and text structure

Fix-Up Strategies

- **Re-reading** – Is there something you can go back and read that will help understanding? Most readers do this already. Sometimes, just re-reading a word or a sentence is enough

- **Make a connection** – sometimes you have information about a topic in your head that isn't being used. Use memories, personal experiences, or information about the subject to help visualize, predict, ask questions and remember what you read

Fix-Up Strategies

- **Make a prediction** – Good readers anticipate what is coming next. If the what comes next doesn't match the prediction, readers rethink and revise their thinking. They are also alerted to possible confusion.

- **Stop and think** – This is very useful, but easy to forget to do. Pausing while reading gives your brain time to think about new information. You have an opportunity to visualize, ask questions and determine what is important

Fix-Up Strategies

- **Ask a question** – Good readers understand that all of the answers will not be found in the text. They use clues from the text and background knowledge to make conclusions. You can seek answers to your questions from:
    - Yourself
    - Someone else
    - Find another resource

Fix-Up Strategies

- **Write about what you've read** – Writing down what you think about the text helps to clarify your thinking. Sometimes just a few side notes is enough; other times writing a summary is more helpful

- **Visualize** – when meaning breaks down, good readers create images in their heads to help make sense of what the words are saying.

Fix-Up Strategies

- **Use print conventions** – as discussed earlier, key words, **bold** or *italicized* words, CAPITALIZED letters, underlining and punctuation can all be used to help understanding. You can also see how the author wants the piece to sound and what he thinks is important

Fix-Up Strategies

- **Use text structure** – recognizing how a piece is organized helps the reader locate information more quickly. As discussed previously, use table of contents and section headings. You don't have to read everything from cover to cover to find information

Tools

- Sticky Notes/Marking Text

- Double-Entry Diaries

Sticky Notes

- Use sticky notes while reading to mark areas of importance
- Write your thinking next to the words that caused that thought:
  - Connections: "This reminds me of…."
  - Questions: "I wonder…."
  - Conclusions: "I think…."
  - Statements: "This is important because…"
  - Confusion: "I don't understand…."

- Make sure to go back to your notes

Double-Entry Diary

- Helps to organize thoughts about text
  - Left side: direct quotes with page number
  - Right side: What you think:
    - Reminds me of….
    - This is important because….
    - I am confused because….
    - I think this means….
    - The picture in my head looks like….

Tools

Double-Entry Diaries

- – Fold paper in half lengthwise (like a hotdog bun)
- – Write quotes or facts from text on left side
- – Write your thoughts on the right side (or draw a picture)

Double-Entry Diary

Fact or Quote From book	What I think….
Remember to include page number	The most important thing is…. I wonder…. This reminds me of…. I am confused about…. I'm picturing….

Reading Strategies

Remember......

- Using reading strategies can make reading more meaningful and helpful, but you have to practice using strategies

- Not all strategies will work in all situations

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- Hopefully, you say this less in the future

- This Powerpoint presentation can be found online at: http://mrpmathzone.weebly.com