

# Reading Comprehension Strategies

<p><b>Make Connections</b></p> <p>What connections do I make as I read?</p> <p>Good readers notice pieces of text that relate to or remind them of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Their lives, past experiences, and prior knowledge</li> <li>• Other books, articles, movies, songs, or pieces of writing</li> <li>• Events, people, or issues</li> </ul> <p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That reminds me of...</li> <li>• This made me think of...</li> <li>• I read another book that...</li> <li>• This is different from...</li> <li>• I remember when...</li> </ul>	<p><b>Visualize</b></p> <p>Good readers create pictures in their minds while they read.</p> <p>While reading, note places where you get a clear picture in your mind that helps you understand the text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can picture...</li> <li>• I can see the...</li> <li>• I can visualize...</li> <li>• The movie in my head shows...</li> </ul> <p>Use your senses to connect the characters, events, and ideas to clarify the picture in your head.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can taste/hear/smell the...</li> <li>• I can feel the...</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ask Questions</b></p> <p>Good readers ask questions before, during, and after reading to better understand the author and the meaning of the text.</p> <p>Ask questions of the author, yourself, and the text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the author trying to say?</li> <li>• What is the message of this piece?</li> <li>• Do I know something about this topic?</li> <li>• What do I think I will learn from this text?</li> <li>• How could this be explained to someone else?</li> <li>• What predictions do I have about this reading?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Infer</b></p> <p>How do I read between the lines?</p> <p>When the answers are “right there,” good readers draw conclusions based on background knowledge and clues in the text.</p> <p>Ask yourself:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I wonder why...</li> <li>• I wonder how...</li> <li>• I wonder if...</li> </ul> <p>Find information from the text that might be clues to the answers and use these with your background knowledge for possible answers.</p>	<p><b>Determine Importance</b></p> <p>What’s the big idea? So what?</p> <p>Good readers look for things that help them identify big ideas and why they are important.</p> <p>Look at text features for clues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Titles and headings</li> <li>• Bold print</li> <li>• Pictures and captions</li> <li>• Graphs and charts</li> <li>• Chapter objectives and questions</li> </ul> <p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The big idea is...</li> <li>• Most important information is...</li> <li>• So far I’ve learned...</li> <li>• The author is saying...</li> <li>• This idea is similar to...</li> </ul>	<p><b>Synthesize</b></p> <p>How do I use what I’ve read to create my own ideas?</p> <p>Good readers combine new information from their reading with existing knowledge in order to form new ideas or interpretations.</p> <p>Synthesis is creating a single understanding from a variety of sources.</p> <p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare and contrast what I’m reading with what I already know or other sources of information.</li> <li>• Think of new ways to use this information.</li> <li>• Can connections I make across this text help me to create new generalizations or new perspectives?</li> </ul>

Adapted from the work of Beal, Keene, and Tovani