Reading Comprehension Questions, Strategies, Techniques

ILLUSTRATIONS – As you read, ask yourself:
- Who is the illustrator? Have I seen his work before?
- Do I like the illustrations? Why or why not?

CHARACTERS – As you read, ask yourself:
- Who are the main characters in the story?
- Do I like or dislike them? Why or why not?
- Who is the most important character? Why?
- Do any of the characters change in the story? How?
- Does a character do things that are good or bad? Why?

SETTING - As you read, ask yourself:
- Where does this story take place?
- What is the place like?
- When did this story take place? How do you know?
- Is there anything I can tell about the setting even though it doesn’t say it directly? (ex. Snow on the ground means that it’s winter.)

PLOT - As you read, ask yourself:
- What are the main events that have happened in this story?
- Can I guess what is going to happen next? What clues can I use?
- What would I have done differently if I had been one of the characters?

THEME - As you read, ask yourself:
- Why did the author write this book?
- Is there a message in this story? What is the message?

MOOD - As you read, ask yourself:
- How did I feel while reading this story? Why did I feel that way?
- What was the most exciting, funniest, saddest or strangest thing that happened?
- What do I remember most about this story?

STYLE - As you read, ask yourself:
- What special words does the author use to help me see the story?
- What pictures did the author leave in my mind?
- What do I like or dislike about the way the author has written the story?

AUTHOR - As you read, ask yourself:
- What is the author trying to tell me in this book?
- What did the author have to know to write this book?
ILLUSTRATIONS

As you read, ask yourself:

• Who is the illustrator? Have I seen his work before?

• Do I like the illustrations? Why or why not?
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As you read, ask yourself:

• Who are the main characters in the story?
• Do I like or dislike them? Why or why not?
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STRATEGIES

1. Making Connections - To help your student make connections while they are reading, ask the following questions:
   - What does the book remind you of?
   - What do you know about the book’s topic?
   - Does this book remind you of another book?

2. Questioning – To help your students use this strategy:
   - Model questioning in your own rereading
   - Ask “I wonder” questions (open-ended)
   - Ask your students to come up with questions before reading to see if it’s answered in the text
   - Keep track of questions verbally or in an informal question log
   - Stop and predict what will happen next
   - Discuss what questions you still have after reading

3. Visualizing – To help your student visualize while reading, try the following:
   - Share wordless picture books with your student- have your student tell the story
   - Make frequent stops while reading aloud to describe the pictures in your minds
   - After reading time at home have your child draw what they see in their mind

4. Inferring – Students make inferences about text they are reading to interpret meaning and develop deeper understanding. To help them use this strategy, ask them:
   - “How did you know that?”
   - “Why did you think that would happen?”
   - “Look at the cover and pictures, then make predictions.”
   - “Discuss the plot and theme.”
   - “What do you think this story was about?”
   - “How do you think the character feels?”
   - “Does it remind you of anything?”
5. **Determining Importance** – When students are reading nonfiction they have to decide and remember what is important from the material they read. To help your student determine importance while they are reading:

- Initiate discussion before reading by asking what your students know about the topic and what they would like to learn.
- After reading discuss what important information they have learned.
- While reading, help your students look for clues in the text to determine importance. Pay attention to:
  1. first and last lines of a paragraph
  2. titles
  3. headings
  4. captions
  5. framed text
  6. fonts
  7. illustrations
  8. italics
  9. bold faced print

6. **Synthesizing** – Students weave together what they read and their own ideas into new complete thoughts. Readers comprehend better when they sift through information to make sense of it and judge or evaluate the author’s purpose to form a new idea, opinion, or perspective. This is the highest and most complex form of comprehension. How to help your student use this strategy:

- Use questioning strategies such as, “How has your thinking changed from reading that piece?”
- Discuss current events with an emphasis on judgments and opinions.
- Ask questions with no clear answers.