

# Comprehension Strategies and Skills

In *Daily Reading Comprehension*, students learn and practice the following commonly tested comprehension strategies and skills, all proven to increase students' abilities to read and understand a wide range of text types. You may also wish to post or distribute copies of page 8, which provides a student-friendly list of skills and helpful questions that students can ask themselves as they read.

## Strategies

### Make Connections

Students make connections to the text to aid their comprehension. Connections can be made to personal experiences or to things the students have seen or read.

### Visualization

Students make mental images of what they are reading. They learn to look for vivid language, including concrete nouns, active verbs, and strong adjectives.

### Organization

Students learn to find the organizational pattern of a text. This allows them to anticipate what they are reading and helps them focus on the author's central message or important ideas.

### Determine Important Information

Students learn to categorize information based on whether or not it supports an author's central message or is important for a specific purpose.

### Ask Questions

Students learn to ask questions before reading to set a purpose for reading, during reading to identify when their comprehension breaks down, or after reading as a way to check their understanding of a passage.

### Monitor Comprehension

Students learn to pay attention to their own reading process and notice when they are losing focus or when comprehension is breaking down. They then can employ another strategy to help them overcome their difficulty.

## Skills

### Main Idea and Details

Students identify what a passage is mostly about and find important details that support the main idea.

### Sequence

Students look for the order in which things happen or identify the steps in a process.

## (Skills, continued)

### Cause and Effect

Students identify what happens (effect) and why it happens (cause).

### Fact and Opinion

Students determine which statements can be proved true (fact) and which statements tell what someone thinks or believes (opinion).

### Compare and Contrast

Students note how two or more people or things are alike and different.

### Make Inferences

Students use their background knowledge and clues from the text to infer information.

### Character and Setting

Students identify who or what a story is about and where and when the story takes place.

### Theme

Students look for the moral or lesson in a fiction story or an author's view about the world in nonfiction.

### Author's Purpose

Students determine why an author wrote a passage and whether the purpose is to entertain, to inform, to persuade, or to teach.

### Prediction

Students use their background knowledge and clues from the text to figure out what will happen next.

### Nonfiction Text Features

Students study features that are not part of the main body of text, including subheadings, captions, entry words, and titles.

### Visual Information

Students study pictures, charts, graphs, and other forms of visual information.