

Seven Meta-cognitive Reading Comprehension Strategies

1. **Activating Schema:** Proficient readers activate relevant prior knowledge and store newly acquired knowledge with previous related memories. They do this by making text-to-text, text-to-self, and text-to-world connections. They also use what they know about an author's style or the genre of the text to better understand. They can identify difficult text formats and structures and know when their schema is inadequate to bring meaning to the text.
2. **Questioning:** Proficient readers formulate questions as they read and understand how those questions may be answered. Predictions and inferences arise from question.
3. **Determining Important Ideas and Themes:** Proficient readers are able to determine the essential ideas of a whole text as well as the most important sentence in a paragraph and the most important words in a sentence. They are able to exclude unimportant ideas from their memories.
4. **Creating Sensory Images:** Proficient readers create visual and other sensory images to help deepen their understanding of a text. Creating these images aids memory of that particular part of the story.
5. **Drawing Inferences:** Proficient readers use their schema and the text information to draw conclusions, make predictions and judgments, or form new ideas
6. **Retelling, Summarizing, Synthesizing:** Proficient readers sift through all the details of a piece of literature and focus on the ones they need to know and remember. Synthesis allows us to take many unrelated parts and put them together in a meaningful whole. It is our way of reconstruction information.
7. **Utilizing Fix-Up Strategies:** Proficient readers are able to repair comprehension when it breaks down by selecting from the language or cueing systems. These include grapho-phonetic (letter/sound associations), semantic (meaning of the text) syntactic (language structure), lexical (word knowledge), pragmatic (world knowledge, knowledge of audience or purpose). They may reread, read on or employ one or more of the other six strategies.