

WAYS TO IMPROVE READING COMPREHENSION OF PUPILS

by:

FRANKLIN R. LOPEZ

Teacher III, Bamban Elementary School

Reading comprehension is the most frequent problem that the teacher experienced with the kids. Children can read the text or choices, but they are unable to correctly answer the comprehension question. Most elementary school kids have trouble understanding what they have read. "Reading comprehension is a thinking process by which a reader selects facts, information, or ideas from printed materials, determines the meanings the author intended to transmit, decides how they relate to prior knowledge, and judges their appropriateness and worth for meeting the learner's own objectives," claim Veeravagu et al (2010:206).

There are numerous ways to improve children's reading comprehension. The Scholastic Parents Staff offers six tips to improve reading comprehension. To start, (1) have them read aloud. They are encouraged to read more slowly, which improves their reading comprehension by giving them more time to reflect on what they are reading. Kids are not only seeing the words, but also hearing them! You can alternate reading aloud as well. (2) Provide books of the proper level of difficulty. Ensure that your struggling reader has ample experience reading novels that aren't too difficult. They should be able to recognize 90% or more of the words on their own. When you pause more often to spell-check a word, kids find it hard to focus on the overall message of the story. If your child needs help transitioning from picture books to chapter books, try Scholastic's Branches books, which are designed to bridge the gap for growing readers. (3) Reread passages to increase fluency. For reading comprehension to develop and content comprehension to occur, your child must read quickly and fluently. Fluency is the name given to this talent. For instance, by the beginning of the third grade, your child

should be able to read 90 words per minute. Your child can increase their word-decoding speed by rereading well-known, simple novels, which will enhance their reading comprehension. (4) Interact with the teacher. If your child is struggling to grasp what they are reading, they could want extra help with vocabulary building or phonics practice. (5) Increase their reading outside of class. Look for books or articles that are easy to read about the subject if your child's class is studying it. Some prior knowledge will help them navigate more difficult school books and improve their reading comprehension. Discuss the books that they are reading. To assist students comprehend what they read, pose questions before, during, and after a session. This "verbal processing" helps them to retain and reflect on the book's subjects. What in this book interests you and what doesn't? Before, during, and after: What is happening in the book? Is it going as you expected? What do you think will happen next? After: "Can you summarize the book? What did you like about it? What other books does it remind me of?"

It's important for early readers to develop reading comprehension skills before moving on to picture books. As they get older, it will help children of school age comprehend textbooks, news stories, and other difficult literature.

References:

Veeravagu, J., Muthusamy, C., Marimuthu, R., & Subrayan, A. (2010). Using Bloom's Taxonomy to gauge students' reading comprehension performance. *Canadian Social Science*, 6(3), 205-212.

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/reading-resources/developing-reading-skills/improve-reading-comprehension.html>