

“What do you do when you don’t understand something you are reading?” “What do you do when you come to a word you don’t know at all?” These are some questions that you should ask yourself as you read, especially if you do not enjoy reading or have a difficult time reading. The following are some reading strategies that you can put into your student’s tool box to help them become better readers.

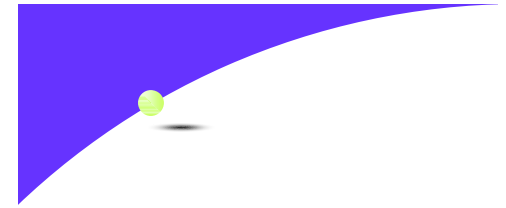
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Books to Choose

When you are looking for books for your student to read, remember that your student needs to choose books that are of interest to him or her. Although we like to help students choose books that are different or a little more challenging for our children, we need to make sure that the books that they are reading are of interest to your student and at a level that is not too challenging for your student to read. Reading should be enjoyable, fascinating and a life long passion.

“Resolve to edge in a little reading every day, if it is but a single sentence. If you gain fifteen minutes a day, it will make itself felt at the end of they year.”

-Horace Mann



Reading Strategies For 5th Grade



Tools in our Toolbox: Reading Strategies for our Students

Reading Strategies

1. Use decoding or phonics

Look for familiar spelling patterns and word parts to help you decode longer words.

2. Make and Confirm Predictions

Think about what might happen next in a story. Read to find out whether you are right. Make new **predictions as you read**.

3. Create Mental Images

Sometimes, picturing in your mind what you are reading can help you understand and enjoy a selection. Pay attention to descriptive details.

4. Self Question

Have you ever found that you have questions as you are reading? Learn to ask yourself good questions as you read. This will help you check your understanding and focus on important ideas in the selection.

5. Summarize

Tell or list the main points of the selection or the main things that happened. This will help you understand and remember what you read.

6. Read Ahead

If you are having trouble understanding something in a selection, such as who a certain character is, don't give up. Keep on reading. The meaning may become clearer when you have more information.

7. Reread to Clarify

If something doesn't make sense, you may have missed an important point. Try reading the passage again or going back after to an earlier part of the selection.

8. Use Context to Confirm Meaning

After you read an unfamiliar or difficult word, ask yourself whether what you read makes sense in the sentence and whether it fits what is happening in the selection. By paying attention to the words around unfamiliar words, you can learn many new words and become a stronger reader.

9. Use Text Structure and Format

Find clues to meaning by looking at how the author organized the information. Is it arranged in time order? By main idea and details? Look at headings and captions.

10. Adjust Reading Rate

Think about the type of selection you are reading. A selection that has a lot of facts and details, such as a selection about volcanoes, may have to be read more slowly than a story about a character your age.

