### Reading Comprehension Strategies

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<th>Make Connections</th>
<th>Visualize</th>
<th>Ask Questions</th>
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| **What connections do I make as I read?**<br>Good readers notice pieces of text that relate to or remind them of:  
- Their lives, past experiences, and prior knowledge  
- Other books, articles, movies, songs, or pieces of writing  
- Events, people, or issues | **Good readers create pictures in their minds while they read.**<br>While reading, note places where you get a clear picture in your mind that helps you understand the text:  
- I can picture...  
- I can see the...  
- I can visualize...  
- The movie in my head shows...<br>Use your senses to connect the characters, events, and ideas to clarify the picture in your head.<br>  
- I can taste/hear/smell the...  
- I can feel the...<br>Tips:  
- That reminds me of...  
- This made me think of...  
- I read another book that...  
- This is different from...  
- I remember when...<br> | **Good readers ask questions before, during, and after reading to better understand the author and the meaning of the text.**<br>Ask questions of the author, yourself, and the text:<br>  
- What is the author trying to say?<br>  
- What is the message of this piece?<br>  
- Do I know something about this topic?<br>  
- What do I think I will learn from this text?<br>  
- How could this be explained to someone else?<br>  
- What predictions do I have about this reading?<br> |

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<th>Infer</th>
<th>Determine Importance</th>
<th>Synthesize</th>
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| **How do I read between the lines?**<br>When the answers are "right there," good readers draw conclusions based on background knowledge and clues in the text.<br>Ask yourself:<br>  
- I wonder why...<br>  
- I wonder how...<br>  
- I wonder if...<br>Find information from the text that might be clues to the answers and use these with your background knowledge for possible answers. | **What’s the big idea?**<br>So what?<br>Good readers look for things that help them identify big ideas and why they are important.<br>Look at text features for clues:<br>  
- Titles and headings  
- Bold print  
- Pictures and captions  
- Graphs and charts  
- Chapter objectives and questions<br>Tips:<br>  
- The big idea is...  
- Most important information is...  
- So far I’ve learned...  
- The author is saying...  
- This idea is similar to...<br> | **How do I use what I’ve read to create my own ideas?**<br>Good readers combine new information from their reading with existing knowledge in order to form new ideas or interpretations.<br>Synthesis is creating a single understanding from a variety of sources.<br>Tips:<br>  
- Compare and contrast what I’m reading with what I already know or other sources of information.<br>  
- Think of new ways to use this information.<br>  
- Can connections I make across this text help me to create new generalizations or new perspectives?<br> |

Adapted from the work of Beal, Keene, and Tovani

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