

Comprehension – “the process of simultaneously extracting and constructing meaning through interaction and involvement with written language. It consists of three elements: the reader, the text, and the activity or purpose for reading” (RAND Reading Study Group, 2002, p.11).

Scaffolding Reading Comprehension in the Elementary School

The amount and type of scaffolding is dependent upon the reader, the text, and the activity or purpose.

Before Reading

- Teach the pronunciation of difficult to read words.
- Teach the meaning of critical, unknown vocabulary words.
- Teach or activate any necessary background knowledge.
- Preview the story or the article.

During Reading

- Utilize passage reading procedures that provide adequate reading practice.
- Ask appropriate questions during passage reading.
- Teach strategies that can be applied to passage reading.
- Use graphic organizers to enhance comprehension. (In some cases, use after passage reading.)

After Reading

- Provide intentional fluency building practice.
- Engage students in a discussion.
- Have students answer written questions.
- Provide engaging vocabulary practice.
- Have students write summaries of what they have read.

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