

Steps to becoming a good reader:

- **Make connections**
 - Relate stories to own lives
 - Think of other books read
 - Think of things that happen in the world
 - Relating to how characters in the story feel
- **Visualizing**
 - Create pictures of the story in your head
 - Make words on the page real and concrete
 - Create images from all your senses
 - Adds to the joy of reading
 - Personalize the text
- **Infer**
 - Make own discoveries and conclusions without being told the answers
 - Read between the lines
 - Use textual clues and questions to create an ending
 - Create meaning based on own notions
 - Make predictions before and after reading
- **Determine importance**
 - Get the bigger ideas and themes
 - Ask the "so what" question
 - Use text clues to figure out important information
 - Look over entire selection to get an idea what it is about
 - Highlight key information
- **Synthesize**
 - Combine pieces of information for a bigger idea
 - Create an original idea/new perspective
 - Ask yourself, "How has our thinking changed from reading the text?"
 - Use the prompts:
 - *I have learned that....
 - *That gives me an idea....
 - *Now I understand that....

Using graphic and semantic organizers:

These (graphic organizers) illustrate concepts and interrelationships among concepts in a text, using diagrams or other pictorial devices. These include: maps, webs, graphs, charts, frames, or clusters. **Semantic organizers** look somewhat like a spider web. These organizers help students focus on a central concept and provide a visual for them to connect the concepts to a variety of related ideas and events. Graphic organizers also aid them in writing well-organized summaries of a text.

Asking questions:

Asking students questions after they have read will test for comprehension and even give them a reason to search back through the text for the answers. This will also help them connect to the text as they answer the questions and think of how the reading might apply to them. It gives students a purpose for reading. Asking questions will focus students' attention on what they are to learn and help them think actively as they read.

Summarizing:

A summary is a synthesis of the important ideas in a text. Summarizing requires students to determine what is important in what they are reading, to condense this information, and to put it into their own words. It helps them identify and connect to what the main ideas are, eliminate repetitive information, and remember what they have read.

Most importantly!

All the things we have discussed (comprehension, literacy, etc) are developmental and require practice. It is something that **will** improve if these strategies and techniques are used. Don't give up if your student is a struggling reader, keep at it and they will improve in their reading!



