

## What Else Do Proficient Readers Do to Enhance Their Comprehension?

Proficient Readers also:

- Monitor comprehension
- Use "fix-up" strategies when comprehension breaks down
- Determine what is important in text
- Draw inferences during and after reading
- Synthesize information
- Interpret text on a variety of levels (e.g., literal, interpretive, evaluative)
- Read and write a variety of text forms (e.g., narrative, expository, technical)

(Kohn & Zimmerman, 1997)

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## What Comprehension Strategies Did the National Reading Panel Identify as Most Promising and Effective?

The NRP identified the following comprehension strategies as most promising and effective for helping students improve their comprehension:

- Comprehension Monitoring
- Cooperative Learning
- Graphic and Semantic Organizers
- Story (or Text) Structure and Mapping
- Questioning (Answering & Generating)
- Summarization
- Multiple Strategy Approach

(NRP, 2000)

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## How Can Comprehension Strategies Be Taught?

Effective Comprehension strategy instruction is explicit.

The teacher tells readers why and when they should use strategies, what strategies to use, and how to apply them. The steps typically include an explanation of the strategy, teacher modeling, guided practice, and application.

- **Explanation** - The teacher explains to students why the strategy helps comprehension and when to apply it.
- **Modeling** - The teacher models or demonstrates how to apply the strategy, usually by "thinking aloud" while reading text that students are using.
- **Guided Practice** - The teacher guides and assists students as they learn how and when to apply the strategy.
- **Application** - The teacher helps students practice the strategy until they can apply it independently.

The teacher then helps readers to use strategies flexibly and in combination with other strategies.

Effective Comprehension strategy instruction can also be accomplished through cooperative and collaborative learning.

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(Annenberg, Lehr, & Osborn, 2001)

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