

Seven Thinking Strategies Used By Proficient Readers to Comprehend Texts

1. Prior Knowledge - Activating relevant prior knowledge (schema) before, during, and after reading.

Proficient readers use prior knowledge to evaluate the meaning they have developed and to store newly learned information with other related memories.

2. Determining the Importance of the Text - Determining the most important ideas and themes in the text.

Proficient readers use their conclusions about important ideas to focus their reading and to exclude peripheral or unimportant details from memory.

3. Asking Questions - Asking questions of themselves, the authors, and the texts as they read.

Proficient readers use their questions to clarify and focus their reading. Through questioning they expand their understanding of the text as well as the author's message.

4. Creating Visual and Sensory Images - Creating visual and other sensory images from text during and after reading.

Images may include visual, auditory, and other sensory connections to the text. Images are used to deepen understanding of the text.

5. Drawing Inferences from the Text - Inferences occur in the form of making predictions, judgments, connections, interpretations, and drawing conclusions.

Proficient readers use their prior knowledge (schema) and textual information to make inferences and form unique interpretations from text.

6. Synthesizing What They Read (Must do all others first) - Readers synthesize in order to understand what they read.

Proficient readers attend to the most important information and to the clarity of the synthesis itself.

7. Monitoring for Meaning / Using Fix-up Strategies to Repair Comprehension When It Breaks Down

Proficient readers select appropriate fix-up strategies to best solve a problem in any reading situation (skip ahead or re-read, use context or syntax, apply decoding strategies).