A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Understand What They Read

We are working on important ways to bet ter understand what we read. Listed below are 8 comprehension strategies that are being taught. When reading, watching TV, talking or sharing a special time together, you can help by asking some questions that will help your child.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Comprehension Strategy** | **What Good Readers Do** | **Parent Question****for Discussion** |
| Recall Prior Knowledge | Good readers think about the
information that they
already know to better
understand what they read. | What does this remind you
of? |
| Predict | Good readers use their
background knowledge and
clues from what has been
read to think about what
will happen next. | What do you think will happen next? Why? |
| Identify Main Idea | Good readers are able to
explain the most important
ideas. | What was most important
about what you've just read?
Why was that important to
you? |
| Question | Good readers ask themselves
questions to better
understand what they read. | What is a question you haveso far? |
| Create Pictures in
Your Mind | Good readers make pictures
in their minds to help them
understand what they are
reading. | What are you seeing in your
mind as you are reading this? |
| Make Inferences | Good readers use what they
already know and ideas for
the book to make a
conclusion about an event or
person. | How do you know that |
| will happen? Why do you suppose |
| acted that way? |
| Summarize | Good readers can explain the
most important ideas from
beginning, middle and end of
the story. | Tell me what this story is
about.
Explain the most important
details from this information. |
| Clarify | Good readers have more that
one way to clear up what
they do not understand. | What can you do to read
that word?What might help you to understand this confusing part better? |

Teri Trail, Reading Support Teacher