
Comprehension - Essential for Good Reading

Comprehension is an essential skill for proficient reading. In 2002, research by Nell Duke and David Pearson identified a series of processes that readers undertake to ensure better comprehension.

The research concluded that good readers are strategic about what and how they read. They read different types of texts in different ways. For example, when reading a story, good readers pay close attention to characters and setting, but if they are reading an informational text, proficient readers revise and summarise what they have read.

Prior to reading, proficient readers have a goal. They preview the text and consider its structure – whether there are headings and which sections may be relevant. Efficient readers make predictions about what they might read and ask themselves, “What do I know about this topic?”

While reading, competent readers check their understanding, adjust predictions, make connections with prior knowledge, and evaluate whether the text is meeting their reading goals. They also read some sections quickly and others more carefully.

After reading, accomplished readers review what they have read and reflect on the value of the information.

This article is an extremely brief summary – links to the research are on the Education Rules!!! Facebook page.

