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 have  so 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