

Cognitive Dimensions of Skillful Reading

How do skillful readers puzzle through a difficult text and restore comprehension when they lose it?

Setting a Purpose/Goal for Reading

“Proficient readers read texts differently depending on their purposes for reading. Purposes drive reading processes.”

Why are you reading this? What do you want to get out of this? What strategies will be best to achieve your goals.

Then . . .



Get the Big Picture

- Skim/scan
- Read ahead (through ambiguity and confusion: does confusion clear up?)
- Identify text types and structures (e.g., headings, informational vs narrative)

Break It down into Chunks

- Chunk text (sections, paragraphs, captions /illustrations, complex sentences, clauses)
- Identify pronoun reference and other textual connections that aid comprehension

Employ close reading: Link your interpretation to specific textual evidence

Monitor comprehension: Do I understand? What do I understand? (test by summarizing/paraphrasing/questioning yourself) Decide whether/how to clarify right now.

Use Problem Solving Strategies to ☆ Maintain Engagement ☆ and ☆ Clarify Confusion ☆

- Monitor attention and work to maintain attention
- Review the big picture to check comprehension
- Keep reading to see if it clears up
- Question texts, authors, self (and determine what questions the author is answering)
- “Talk” to the text through annotation
- Visualize what is described OR Represent in graphic form
- Represent in metaphor/analogy
- Make connections to things you know or have seen/experienced in life/this text/other texts
- Re-read to clear up confusions or solidify understanding
- Summarize, re-tell, or paraphrase parts
- Organize and keep track of ideas in graphic organizers, outlines, response logs and notes