



# **Reading Strategies for Parents**

Becoming an effective reader takes regular practice with appropriate texts. Effective readers understand that what they read, needs to make sense. Therefore effective readers have strategies that they use instinctively when they don't understand part of a text. They may go back over the text; they look for clues elsewhere that may help them understand. *Effective Readers know that when they read, what they read is supposed to make sense.* They monitor their understanding, and when they lose the meaning of what they are reading, they often unconsciously select and use a reading strategy (such as rereading or asking questions) that will help them reconnect with the meaning of the text.

Other children struggle more with reading and need to have a framework available to them, to help them monitor their understanding of the text. Below are the some basic principles that are proven to help a child *read with meaning*.

## **Predict**

What is this book/text going to be about? What do you think is going to happen next? Why do you think that? Are there images to help you predict together what the text may be about? Headlines are useful too, especially puns for the more advanced reader. Often it is the pun that usefully demonstrates the nuances of the English language.

## **Clarify**

This is where we check for understanding, have they understood what they have just read? Do they have sections of the text that they didn't quite understand? *Clarify* certain points for your reader, go back on the text and clarify points and areas that weren't quite understood on the first read through.

## **Question**

Now the text is more understood, what questions do we have that need answering? It's a step on from clarification, it's more about questions that arise from the text. Can we find the answers?

## **Summarise**

This when we check for understanding. Summarising is a very important skill. It requires the text to be understood, then we evaluate the most important points and explain them. This will not happen without complete understanding of the text.

## **Reading Together**

When did you stop reading with your child? It seems to be that parents stop reading to, or with their child when they transition to secondary school. Children love being read to and it is the best way to create a reading habit that will last a lifetime. Honestly, even the most noisy and disruptive of classes focus when they are read to, even lofty sixth formers! Share your interests, pick books that you want to read together . By doing this and discussing the text you will be consolidating the understanding of the text and developing reading skills.