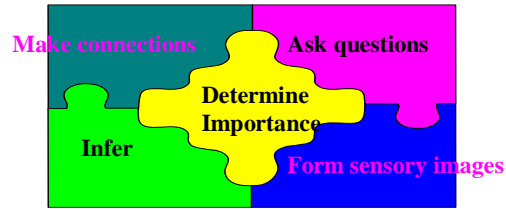


A PARENT'S GUIDE TO STRATEGIC READING



SYNTHESIZE IDEAS



Grades 3-5

NAPERVILLE DISTRICT 203

READING IS THINKING

Knowing how to say a written word in itself is not reading. Students need to understand what they're reading. We teach students strategies that will enable them to think about their reading.

Students need to interact with text in order to think about their reading. If students think about their reading, they will better understand the meaning of the text.

Good readers use the following seven strategies to unlock meaning.

1. Connect Known to New
2. Ask Questions
3. Form Sensory Images
4. Infer Meaning
5. Determine Importance
6. **Synthesize Ideas**
7. Solve Reading Problems

These 7 strategies are used in our K-12 curriculum. But more importantly, they should be used to help your child become a lifelong reader.

This brochure will focus on the strategy of **synthesizing ideas**. To give your child more experience with this strategy, attempt to **synthesize** aloud when you read to your child.

SYNTHESIZE IDEAS

Proficient readers retell and synthesize what they have read. They focus on what is important in a text, and recognize what parts aren't important to the understanding of the text. Synthesizing helps the reader better comprehend what she / he is reading.

Synthesizing is the most complex of the reading strategies. It requires using all of the comprehension strategies together:

- Making connections
- Determining importance
- Asking questions
- Forming sensory images
- Inferring
- Solving problems

An analogy for children is building with Legos. When a child builds with Legos, she / he is taking smaller pieces to create a new "whole." When a child synthesizes, she / he **takes important pieces of the text to create a new concept or idea** in her mind.

Proficient readers do not synthesize just at the end of the text. **Synthesis occurs throughout all reading.** The reader's new "whole" that she / he is creating is constantly changed and updated.

Synthesis helps a reader better understand what he is reading because it requires the reader to **interact with the text**. Try modeling this strategy with texts your child reads to you, and texts that you read to your child. **At this age, your child can comprehend much higher than his independent reading level.**

Below is a graphic organizer that your child has used at school to assist him / her in using the strategy of **synthesizing ideas**. You may choose to refer to this while reading with your child.

SYNTHESIZE IDEAS
What are you thinking as you read this text?

Connections I have: _____

Questions I have: _____

Determine Importance

Setting: _____

Characters: _____

Problem: _____

Sensory images I have formed: _____

Inferences I have made: _____

Solution: _____

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RESOURCES

Below are links to graphic organizers that you may use to practice the strategy of **synthesizing ideas**.

- **Synthesizing Ideas**
- **Synthesizing Ideas** (landscape)
- **Synthesizing Ideas** (pg. 1)
- **Synthesizing Ideas** (pg. 2)

Below are web sites that you may find helpful to learn more about **synthesizing ideas**.

- <http://www.readinglady.com/Comprehension/index.html>
- <http://www.madison.k12.wi.us/tnl/lanngarts/pdf/synthesize9.PDF>



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