

Reading Comprehension for Intermediate Students

Reading Skill	What is it?	At Home
Making a connection	Understanding how you can be connected to a story (a person, a place, an event is similar to something you know)	Help a child get motivated to read by pointing out some similarities between the story and their own life.
Visualization	Making mental pictures when there aren't any in the story	After a child has read a story or part of a story, ask them to describe a character to you or pretend they were making a movie – what would that be like? The child is giving detail which matches information given by the author.
Point of view	Who is telling the story? Is it a character (I . . .), is it an outsider (who tells what is going on?), is it an outsider who can also tell what the characters are thinking?	If the character is telling the story, that is called “first person.” We usually only get their perspective of a situation. Try to get your child to look at the other side of any issue.
Compare and Contrast	Find the similarities and differences. This can be with characters, events in a story, or from one book to another.	When a child reads different books by the same author, ask them to tell you what is the same and what is different. If they read a book and saw the movie, they can compare and contrast.
Sequence	Putting something in order from beginning to end.	When teaching them how to do something at home, have them repeat the sequence. Use words like first, then, next, after that, finally.
Making an inference	This means we are trying to interpret what the author meant when they don't come right out and say it. It is sometimes called “reading between the lines.”	In conversations, you can get your child to support their view point with facts. For example, if they say, “Our football game was great!” get them to tell what made it great.
Cause and Effect	A chain of events that causes something else to happen. The “effect” is the end result. Effect: I got an A. Cause: I studied for the test.	Help children realize there is usually a consequence to every action, which can be positive or negative. Encourage your child to think things through about what might happen if a certain action is taken.