

## **School Improvement Goal: Improving Reading Comprehension All students will learn and apply reading comprehension strategies.**

### **Teaching Your Child to Become a More Powerful Reader and Thinker**

#### **What are reading comprehension strategies?**

Teachers at Olive Elementary School will be teaching strategies to students in order for them to develop their reading comprehension skills. Students will be introduced to and practice six reading comprehension strategies that have been found in research to be used by proficient readers. The goal is to teach students to develop an awareness of their thinking while they read, so that they can engage in a deeper, more meaningful reading experience and improve their comprehension. The six comprehension strategies we are teaching are:

1. **Predict:** What do I think this story (or nonfiction selection) will be about?
2. **Connect:** What does the story/selection remind me of?
3. **Question:** What am I wondering about this story/selection?
4. **Visualize:** What pictures can I make in my head from this story/selection?
5. **Clarify:** Can I read and understand the words? Do I understand what I'm reading?
6. **Summarize:** What was this story/selection about?

#### **What are the Key Ideas?**

- Learning to read involves two distinct, yet equally important components:
  - **Decoding:** the ability to read the words on the page with fluency and accuracy
  - **Comprehension:** the ability to construct meaning from the text
- Comprehension strategies need to be **taught directly** and explicitly so that students can understand what thinking looks like and sounds like.
- **Common language** of these thinking strategies is essential for helping students acquire the "**language of thinking**" across the grades.
- Metacognition, or "**awareness of thinking**," is an important component of teaching, learning, and practicing the strategies.
- We have two voices: a **reading voice** (what we hear when we read aloud) and a **thinking voice** (the thoughts & conversations that take place in our heads while we read). Good readers pay attention to their thinking voice while they read.
- Teachers and parents can **model their thinking voice** while they read to and with their children to help teach and reinforce the strategies.

**What can parents do to reinforce the reading comprehension strategies at home?**

You can model your “thinking voice” while reading to and with your children. You can ask your children to make their “thinking voice” heard by asking them the questions below about their reading.

**PREDICT**

What do you think will happen if \_\_\_\_\_?

What do you think will happen next?

I think the character will \_\_\_\_\_.

How do you think the story might end?

**MAKE CONNECTIONS**

What does this remind you of?

When have you had a similar experience?

Have you ever felt this way?

Does the character remind you of someone you know?

Have you ever been in a place like this?

**Question**

Why did the author include this section?

Why did the character do that?

Why did that happen?

**Visualize**

What did you see in your mind as you read?

How did you picture the character?

What do you imagine the setting looked like?

What do these details show?

**CLARIFY**

What word makes sense here?

What clues in the sentence can help you figure out that word?

What might this mean?

Were you confused about anything you read?

**SUMMARIZE**

What was the most important part?

What was the main idea?

What can you tell me about the most important parts?

What happened?

What have you learned?