

Being Strategic Readers

(much of this information is from Kayla Beers)

Football players have them. Pilots have them. Surgeons have them. Busy moms have them. Teachers for sure have them. What do they have? Plans. These plans, strategies actually, not only give people a vision of what they are supposed to do, but provide direction for when unexpected situations arise. (We don't have problems...only situations...I learned this from a Jamaican woman). Skilled readers (that would be you and me) also have plans for getting through a text, though often those plans are such a part of our reading life that we don't even recognize them as plans. Below are a sampling of these strategies to use, because you will surely encounter some reading this year that stretches you. Choose from this menu, and you will have reading success.

Clarify what is confusing:

- Reread
- Read on
- Check vocabulary
- Make an inference
- Point out the specific part that is confusing
- Look for connections
- Talk to someone
- Go back to the last part you understood

Reflect on what was read:

- Think about what you read
- Think about what needs rereading
- State the main idea
- Summarize what's been going on
- Make decisions about what to do next
- Identify parts you like most and least
- Take notes on what you've learned
- Jot down unanswered questions
- Make a list of vocabulary and dates that need to be looked up and learned

Visualize action and hear the text:

- If I saw this on TV, what would I see?
- If I heard these people talking, what would they sound like?
- Is this part better in black and white or color?
- If I were watching the action but couldn't hear the words, what gestures would people be making?

Ask questions before and during reading:

- What's going on?
- What's confusing me?
- What's surprised me?
- Why did.....happen?
- What do I want to say about this?
- What would happen if...?

Make connections to the text:

- How am I like one of the characters?
- Is this like anything I've read or seen?
- Is something or someone in the text like something or someone in the real world?
- Where have I read about or heard about similar ideas or problems?

Predict before and during reading:

- Ask what should happen next.
- Guess what will happen next.
- Stop and reread if predictions are not accurate.