

The Balanced Reader: Comprehension

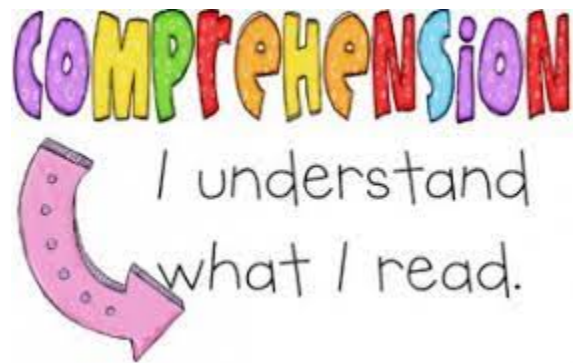
The three important skills to become a balanced reader are decoding, fluency and phrasing and comprehension.

<p>Decoding Students need to understand the sounds found in words and be able to put those sounds back together to form words and sentences.</p>	<p>Fluency and Phrasing Students ability to “read like you talk” using punctuation and the ability to break text into meaningful sentences.</p>	<p>Comprehension A balanced reader can not only read, but comprehend what is happening in the story. They are then able to answer questions about what they have read.</p>
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Comprehension adds meaning to what is read. Reading comprehension occurs when words on a page are not just mere words but thoughts and ideas. Comprehension makes reading enjoyable, fun, and informative. It is needed to succeed in school, work, and life in general.

1. Use pre-reading comprehension techniques

Before reading a book, have your child look at the cover and the inside pictures and predict what the story is about.



2. Read books together and discuss.

Read to your children every evening. At the end of each chapter, discuss what happened. Parents can still share books with older children by reading the same book separately. Ask your child every day, "Where are you in the book? Did you get to Chapter 5 yet? What do you think about what happened to Harry?" Allowing children to retell a story that they read lets them practice comprehension skills.

