

Comprehension is, at its simplest, understanding the meaning of a text. How good readers do this is the focus of comprehension instruction at Burrendah PS.

Some strategies which good readers use may include a combination of any of the following processes (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Clarifying the goal of reading the text (purpose)
- Skimming or looking through a text before reading
- Making predictions about what might be presented next in the text
- Refining predictions as the text is read
- Making connections to what is already known
- Determining which information is the most important in the text
- Re-reading any information considered important or difficult to understand
- Reading on when searching for some specific information
- Making inferences about information not explicitly stated in the text
- Synthesising information in the text to summarise and monitor understanding
- Generating questions about the text
- Creating images from what is read
- Paraphrasing the information read
- Seeking clarification when meaning is lost.

First Steps: Reading Resource Book

When your child reads to you, you should be asking them questions or setting them goals to use these strategies. It is important they find a book that is at the right level too. You can get your child's teacher to help you with this.

Before your child reads to you (or you read to your child), ask them to predict what they think the book will be about. Get them to look at the title, pictures and blurb at the back before reading. Encourage them to explain how they came to make those predictions. Discuss any other books or situations that they are familiar with which may be similar or in some way relevant to the book.

During reading, ask your child to discuss the characters and their actions. Encourage them to ask questions about the actions e.g., "I wonder if this character will be angry about...". Encourage them to re-read bits they didn't understand. Continue to check their understanding of the text at significant points.

After reading, discuss the characters and your child's opinions of the main characters. You could get them to write a letter to a character, draw a picture of a key scene, or turn the book into a comic. It is important also to get them to summarise what they have read, ensuring they sequence the story carefully. You may want to help them by using words such as "First", "then", "next" and "finally." If you are reading a book with pictures, you can use them to help prompt the retell or summary. Discuss any other books or situations that they are familiar with which may be similar or in some way relevant to the book.