



Reading Comprehension Checklist

What to do: Use this checklist to ask different levels of comprehension questions and to make sure students understand and analyze the text during the reading process. Questions should range from literal, knowledge-based questions to higher-order questions that require students to make inferences, synthesize information, analyze and evaluate, and make judgments.

Why it matters: Comprehension questions help identify students who read the text well but have difficulty creating meaning from it, and those who have very concrete thought processes versus those who can draw from experiences or from the text to connect and synthesize information. Armed with knowledge of students' strengths and areas for growth, educators can individualize literacy activities.

Questions to Ask

Literal Questions

Who? What? Where?
When? How? What does _____ mean?

Questions That Require Inference and Synthesis

Why?
What caused ...?
How are _____ and _____ alike? How are they different?
Tell me in your own words
What happened first, second, third?
What is [the character/setting] like?
How do you think [character] was feeling?
What is the main message or idea of this text?

Questions that Require Analysis, Evaluation, and Judgment

What do you think will happen next? Why do you think so?
What would happen if ...?
Do you think [action] was [good or bad/right or wrong/justified or unjustified]?
Do you agree with the [actions/decisions/choices] of [character]?
If this story were told from [character]'s point of view, how would the story change?

Tips for Building Background Knowledge

Each reader brings a unique set of skills, abilities, knowledge, and life experiences to each text. Building students' background knowledge is an important way to help them understand what they read. In out-of-school time, you can:

- Read aloud and discuss a variety of engaging texts written for different purposes and audiences.
- Teach new words before reading activities, and continue to use them afterward.
- Use visual aids.
- Provide rich learning experiences. Each field trip to a farm, concert, science lab, or town council meeting expands students' worlds!



Student Reading Strategies for Comprehension Checklist

Directions: Staff can assist younger students in using this checklist after reading; older students may use this checklist independently. Students fill out the checklist to monitor their comprehension and reflect on the reading strategies they used.

Student name: _____ Date: _____

Title of text: _____

Reading Strategies I Used Today	Yes	No
Thought about what I know		
Knew why I was reading		
Previewed text		
Made and checked predictions		
Created mental images		
Asked and answered questions		
Made inferences		
Monitored my understanding		
Used “fix-up strategies” (e.g., reread a passage, slowed down, read ahead, identified unknown words)		
Identified main ideas and summarized		

What strategy was most helpful today? Why?

What can I do to improve my reading comprehension?

Note: Some ideas in this checklist were adapted from the [Florida Center for Reading Research](#).

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