USING READING STRATEGIES IN ELEMENTARY LEVEL CLASROOMS

Surayyo Abidjanova
Kokand University

Abstract: Reading comprehension is embedded in different areas of our lives, from reading a text message on mobile devices to reading a literary work with many pages, we are understanding the text. Pelosi in this regard, believes that one of the most important requirements and at the same time necessary for the progress of the person is reading comprehension, since this not only allows the development of curricular areas in the educational system, but also in the different spaces where it unfolds. Having a toolkit of elementary reading comprehension strategies is such an important part of understanding and interpreting what we read. As a result, it's important that we explicitly teach reading comprehension strategies to our students and provide them with a wealth of practice opportunities.

Key words: reading comprehension strategies, critical analysis, analyzing Illustrations, visualizing, summarizing, sequencing, independent readers.

It is important to teach reading comprehension strategies because it helps students become stronger, more independent readers. It equips them with the tools they need to tackle more complex texts. Roldan affirms that reading and writing are fundamental requirements to access learning; They are the main tools to guarantee the exercise of a responsible person with a critical level, who actively participates in the society where it develops. Furthermore, some scholar's states that the students who are in the classrooms receive academic content that is transmitted through texts, it is for this reason that the development of reading is an important means of learning for all human beings. Along the same lines, a true reading comprehension occurs when the reader goes beyond the literal, must advance to inferential understanding to end up successfully expressing a position on the read text that implies a critical analysis.

Reading strategies is the broad term used to describe the planned and explicit actions that help readers translate print to meaning. Strategies that improve decoding and reading comprehension skills benefit every student, but are essential for beginning readers, struggling readers, and English Language Learners. Reading strategies help readers with comprehension by giving them ways to make sense of the text they are reading. It gives them different ways to look at and think about a text.

Reading is a stimulating mental activity that expands your mind and improves your communication skills. Wide readers are often admired for their ability to think and speak well. Many people consider reading as one of life's most satisfying pleasures since it involves both physical and mental activities. Primarily a mental activity, reading engages your imagination and encourages mental visualization. Whether you are reading a detective thriller or a self-help book, you use your mind to picture the setting, imagine the pain of the characters, and contemplate the different ideas and arguments presented. To become an effective reader, it is important to develop a wide vocabulary through extensive reading. This enables you to have a good general idea of the meaning of sentences and to be alert and curious about new words. Some readers develop the

habit of using a dictionary whenever they come across a new word, while others try to figure out the word's meaning from the context. Reading also develops intellectual curiosity by exposing you to a variety of materials. By reading books of increasing difficulty and variety, you learn to read actively and with an open mind. Active reading involves drawing your own conclusions, agreeing or disagreeing with the author, and keeping your mind open to new ideas.

Here are seven strategies highly effective for elementary level readers;

1) Activating
2) Inferring
3) Monitoring-Clarifying
4) Questioning
5) Searching-Selecting
6) Summarizing
7) Visualizing-Organizing

***Activating—"**Priming the cognitive pump" in order to recall relevant prior knowledge and experiences from long-term memory in order to extract and construct meaning from text.

Inferring—Bringing together what is spoken (written) in the text, what is unspoken (unwritten) in the text, and what is already known by the reader in order to extract and construct meaning from the text.

Monitoring/Clarifying—Thinking about how and what one is reading, both during and after the act of reading, for purposes of determining if one is comprehending the text combined with the ability to clarify and fix up any mix-ups.

Questioning— Engaging- in learning dialogues with text (authors), peers, and teachers through: Self-Questioning, Question Generation, and Question Answering

Searching-Selecting— Searching a variety of sources in order to select appropriate information to answer questions, define words and terms, clarify misunderstandings, solve problems, or gather information.

Summarizing— Restating the meaning of text in one's own words — different words from those used in the original text.

Visualizing/Organizing—Constructing a mental image or graphic organizer for the purpose of extracting and constructing meaning from the text.

All teachers would definitely agree that reading is not just limited to text. Reading pictures, art pieces, facial expressions, numbers, shapes and patterns are also important pieces that should be included to the reading process. Reading meaningfully adds more life to the whole process of reading. One of my favorite reading strategies to use with my students is associated with BDA (*Before-During-After)*.

There is also another method which is extremely loved by kids before reading a book: The Preview and Predict strategy. It is one thing we surely do before we start a read aloud session.

Preview and Predict

Things needed:

• A book to read aloud.
• A bag (to hide the book inside).

- Lots of excitement!

We usually have a comfortable seating area as well as a designated time for the read aloud session. Kids are always super excited to know what book we would be reading, and we start with a "before" reading strategy P&P. There is no one right answer as to what the best order is for teaching reading comprehension strategies. A great place to start is looking at your grade level, school, or district's curriculum map to see when specific standards need to be taught. We will also want to look at your reading curriculum program if your school has one. When you sit down to plan out your instruction, think about your grade level, your students' needs, and the complexity of the reading strategies. An example of analyzing the complexity of the strategies is teaching the setting of the story before practicing visualizing. Understanding the setting will help them with visualizing.

Conclusion: Reading strategies help readers with comprehension by giving them ways to make sense of the text they are reading. It gives them different ways to look at and think about a text. Active reading involves drawing your own conclusions, agreeing or disagreeing with the author, and keeping your mind open to new ideas. One of the advantages of reading is that it engages various parts of your brain. When you read, you exercise your comprehension abilities and your analytical abilities. It fires up your imagination and stimulates the memory centers of your mind. It helps recall information as well as stabilize your emotions. The importance of a reading habit is that it strengthens mental muscles. Reading is one of the best mental workouts there is. It's been found that regular mental stimulation can slow down and possibly even prevent diseases like Alzheimer's and dementia. Reading keeps the mind agile and young.

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