

## READING COMPREHENSION SKILLS/CONCEPTS

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## WORD STRATEGIES

- Try to sound the word out. Think of the sounds you know, think about word families, and/or break the word into syllables (word parts).
- For example if the word is spoil and you know the /oi/ sound, it will help you say the word more quickly. You can also think of word families- if you know the word oil just add the /sp/ and you know the word is spoil.
  - If you don't know how to say the word or you don't know what the word means, reread the sentence and use context clues that will help you figure out the word or meaning. You may have to reread the sentences before and after to find clues.
  - If you don't know what a word means you can try to substitute a synonym (a word which means the same or nearly the same). For example in the sentence: If you don't know what to do, I can assist you. If you don't know how to read or understand what the word "assist" means, say the sentence using another word that makes sense: If you don't know what to do, I can help you. The word assist means help.

## MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS

- The main idea is what the paragraph or whole story is mostly about. The details tell more about the main idea.

### Steps to find the Main Idea:

1. Think about what the paragraph or story is mostly about. This is the main idea.
2. Ask yourself, “Can I find 2 or more details that tell me more about this idea?”

## SUMMARIZING

A summary tells the most important details of the book or paragraph in your own words.

### Steps to Summarize:

- After reading ask yourself, “What is the main idea of the chapter or book?” or “What is the main idea of each paragraph?”
- Write down 2 to 5 main ideas in your own words.

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## CAUSE AND EFFECT

Very often something happens because of something else that happened.

- The first event is the cause, or reason.  
A cause is a reason why something happened.
- The next event is the effect, or result.  
An effect is something that happens because of something else.

### STEPS TO FINDING THE CAUSE AND EFFECT

1. Think about what happened. This will be the effect.
2. Ask yourself, “Why did this happen?” This is the cause.

### Some clue words

because	so
as a result	therefore
due to	thus
since	consequently

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## SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- **Sequence is the order in which things happen. It also can tell the steps in doing something.**

**Think about some events that happened. Ask yourself, “Did this event happen before this event?” “Did it happen after?” “Did it happen at the same time?” “Did this event happen first?” “Last?” “Right before this event?” “Right after this event?”**

**\* It’s a good idea to go back in the passage to be sure.**

### Some clue words which show sequence

<b>first</b>	<b>then</b>	<b>last</b>
<b>before</b>	<b>after</b>	<b>finally</b>
	<b>next</b>	
	<b>later</b>	

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**Clue words used when things are happening at the same time:**

<b>while</b>	<b>as</b>	<b>during</b>	<b>meanwhile</b>
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### More Sequence Words

<b>Clock Times</b>	<b>Years and Dates</b>
<b>7:30 am</b>	<b>1963</b>
<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>876 BC</b>
<b>six o'clock in the morning</b>	<b>1/28/72</b>
<b>two hours before</b>	<b>April 11, 2007</b>
<b>several hours later</b>	<b>five years ago</b>
<b>12:00 midnight</b>	<b>many years later</b>
	<b>21 years old</b>

**Days of the week, months, seasons, times of the day (morning, noon, evening) are also some sequence words.**

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## MAKING PREDICTIONS

A prediction is thinking about what the story, passage, or book will be about. It is also thinking about what will happen next.

- Before Reading- Read the title, look at the picture on the cover and predict what it will be about.
- During and After Reading:
  1. Think about what has happened so far.
  2. Think about the clues that will help you figure out what will happen next.
  3. Think about your own experience (things you know from your own life) or prior knowledge.
  4. Make a prediction and give evidence to prove it. Use clues from the story and/or your own experience to prove it.

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## DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

- A conclusion is an opinion or judgement.

### Steps to draw a conclusion:

1. Think about what the author wrote.
2. Think about your own experience or your prior knowledge.
3. Now make a conclusion using what the author wrote, your own experience, and your prior knowledge.

## MAKING INFERENCES

- An inference is an educated guess.

### Steps to make an inference:

1. Think about the clues given in each sentence.
2. Think about your own experience or your prior knowledge.
3. Now make an inference.

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## COMPARE AND CONTRAST

- When we compare things we tell how they are alike.
- When we contrast things we tell how they are different.

### Steps to compare and contrast:

1. Ask yourself, “Are 2 things being compared or contrasted?”
2. Are clue words used to show how things are alike or different?

Compare	Contrast
and	but
also	however
too	although
both	though
similarly	yet
likewise	unlike
as well	nevertheless
same	on the other hand
common	unlike
alike	different

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## FACT AND OPINION

- A fact is something you can check to find out if it is true.
- An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels about something and it can not be proven.

### Steps to decide if a statement is a Fact or Opinion:

1. Think about if the statement is true for everyone and it can be proven. If it is, then it is a fact.
2. Think about if the statement is not true for everyone. If it is, then it is an opinion because not everyone agrees.

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## AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

The author's purpose is the reason why and author writes something.

The three reasons an author writes are to:

1. inform or to explain how to do something
2. to persuade
3. to entertain

To Inform – authors write to give information about a topic or authors write to give directions to do something.

To Persuade – authors write to try to get you to do something or to get you to agree with them on something.

To Entertain – authors write to give you enjoyment.

<u>to inform</u>	or	<u>to explain</u>	<u>to persuade</u>	<u>to entertain</u>
-science textbook		-game directions	- advertisement	- fictional stories
-book about the moon		- making a craft	- notices with opinions	-poetry
-newspaper articles		- recipe		-fables
-a biography		- how to books		- fantasy books

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## FANTASY OR REALISTIC

FANTASY – a story that could not happen in real life. This genre includes fairy tales, folktales, fables, and science fiction. These are stories of pure imagination.

REALISTIC FICTION – A story that could happen in real life. Fiction in which the setting, plot, dialogue, and characters seem real.

- Setting – Where and when the story takes place.
- Plot – What happens in the story.
- Dialogue – What is said in the story.
- Characters – Who the people and/or animals are in the story.

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## CHARACTER'S FEELINGS

We can figure out how a person or character **feels** by what they **do** and **say**.  
Also by the way they **look**.

excited	amused	worried	scared	silly	nervous
joyful	comfortable	foolish	tired	upset	lonely
glad	hopeful	frustrated	anxious	angry	unhappy
interested	proud	annoyed	confused	frightened	sad
brave	surprised	embarrassed			

## CHARACTER TRAITS

Character Traits are words we use to **describe what a person is like** by what they do and say.

friendly	honest	smart	proud	selfish	lazy	uncooperative
helpful	thoughtful	wise	determined	messy	nervous	thoughtless
curious	happy	eager	polite	shy	restless	impolite
patient	neat	caring	respectful	careless	loner	disrespectful
careful	organized	playful		mean	grumpy	

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## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Authors use figurative language to make their writing more interesting. They use words which will give the reader good pictures of what is happening in the story so you can make a better “mind movie”.

**SIMILE** – A simile describes one thing by comparing it to another thing using the words **like**, **as**, or **than**.

Example – The rain poured down like a waterfall.

Meaning: The rain coming down was like the water coming down a waterfall so it was coming down fast and hard.

**METAPHOR** – A metaphor is a comparison in which a writer says that someone or something **is** something else.

Example – My baby brother is a little monkey.

Meaning: The brother is being compared to a monkey because he can't sit still just like a monkey.

**IDIOM** – An idiom is a phrase whose words have a different meaning from their meaning.

Example – It's raining cats and dogs.

Meaning – The phrase “raining cats and dogs” does not mean cats and dogs are falling from the sky. It means it is raining very hard.

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