Skills and Strategies for Reading (Overview)

Use these "fix-up" strategies to understand and remember what you read.

Reading

PREVIEW: Get a sense of a text before reading. • Look for clues in the title, subheadings, and graphics. • Skim opening paragraphs.	**PREDICT:** Guess what will happen. • Note details about plot or characters that hint about where the story is headed. • Keep reading to find out whether your guess was right.
SET A PURPOSE: Decide why you are reading. • Ask: Am I reading for information, entertainment, or another reason? • Your purpose may affect how you approach a text—for example, whether you take notes on it.	**VISUALIZE:** Create a mental picture. • Look for details about people, places, and events. • Use these details to form a vivid scene in your mind's eye.
CONNECT: Relate personally to what you read. • Think about whether you know similar people, places, or problems. • Consider how you would act in the same situation.	**MONITOR:** Check your comprehension as you read. • Clarify your understanding by rereading difficult parts or asking for help. • Evaluate how well you understand the text.
USE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE: Think of what you already know about the topic. • Before reading, jot down what you already know. • As you read, connect what you know to what you are learning.	**MAKE INFERENCES:** Develop logical guesses based on the text and your own experiences. • Notice details in the text. • Think about how common sense and your past experiences can help you understand the character or situation.