

Reading and Driving Analogy

“When I drive, I have a destination in mind. I am very conscious of what is going on around me. I monitor my speed. I compare it with the posted limits. I know to slow down for speed traps, and I know when I can exceed the speed limit without risking danger to myself or others... When a song comes on that I don't like, I change the station. I watch the gas and oil gauges to make sure they are in acceptable ranges...However, if I encounter difficulty, I stop and try to correct the problem. If I get a flat tire or I am caught speeding, I can't keep driving unless I want to make my situation worse...When one plan doesn't work, I try something else.

Monitoring comprehension and using fix-up strategies is a lot like driving. Good readers expect to arrive at meaning, just as good drivers expect to arrive at their destination. A reader's ultimate purpose is to gain meaning.

In order to do this, readers must monitor their comprehension, and when meaning breaks down, they need to repair it.”

- **Cris Tovani, author of I Read It But I Don't Get It**

Card # 1

Seven Strategies of Successful Readers

- They use existing knowledge to make sense of new information.
- They ask questions about the text before, during, and after reading.
- They draw inferences from the text.
- They monitor their comprehension.
- They use “fix-up” strategies when meaning breaks down.
- They determine what is important.
- They synthesize information to create new thinking.

Card #2

Signals of Confusion

- The voice inside the reader's head isn't interacting with the text.
- The camera inside the reader's had shuts of.
- The reader's mind begins to wander.
- The reader can't remember what has been read.
- Clarifying questions asked by the reader are not answered.
- The reader reencounters a character and has no recollection when that character was introduced.

Card #3

Fix-it Strategies

- Make a connection between the text and your life, your knowledge of the world, or another text.
- Make a prediction.
- Stop and think about what you have already read.
- Ask yourself a question and try to answer it.
- Reflect in writing on what you have read.
- Visualize.
- Use print conventions.
- Retell what you've read.
- Reread.
- Notice patterns in text structure.
- Adjust your reading rate: slow down or speed up.

Card #4