Thinking Aloud

Good readers engage in mental processes before, during, and after they read in order to comprehend text. They stop often to think out loud and describe what is going on in their minds as they read.

**Comprehension Technique:**
- Select a short piece of text.
- Foresee difficulty.
- Read the text out loud and stop often to share your thinking.
- Point out the words in the text that trigger your thinking.
  - I am reminded of _____
  - I wonder___________
  - I am confused ____________
  - I notice that this piece is organized like this _______________.

Discovering Meaning/Vocabulary

- Look at the structure of the word. Is there a familiar prefix, root, or suffix?
- Use the glossary.
- Read the words around the unknown word. Can another word be substituted?
- Write the word down on a sticky note. Look it up or ask the teacher.

Understanding Purpose

A reader’s purpose affects everything about reading. It determines what’s important in the text, what is remembered, and what comprehension strategy a reader uses to enhance meaning.

**Comprehension Technique:**
- Read the article and circle what you think is important.
- Read the piece again, and this time use a pink highlighter to mark places in the text that a _____ would find important.
- Read the piece again, and this time use a yellow highlighter to mark places in the text that a _____ would find important.
- What did you notice about the three times you highlighted. The first time was probably the hardest because you had no purpose.

Correcting Confusion

**Comprehension Technique:**
- Stickey Notes
  Place stickey notes next to passages that cause confusion so that you can return to them.
- Highlighters
  Use highlighters to mark places you understand (pink) and places that are confusing (yellow).

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