

READING COMPREHENSION

And Strategies to Help Improve It While

Reading



Comprehension is a deep or full understanding of something

- Reading comprehension is getting meaning out of what you read—going beyond just the words and facts presented and instead fully understanding everything you just read.
- Reading comprehension relies heavily on your ability to analyze what you read, which means you have to be an active reader.
- Fully comprehending what you read allows you to make inferences, draw conclusions, solve problems, and apply what you learn to other contexts.
- These skills are necessary for not only reading books or passing a test, but every part of life.

Comprehension can start by asking a few questions:

- Who
- What
- Where
- When
- Most Importantly: Why

Active Reading Strategies¹

- **Visualize** Use the details from the text to create an image in your mind in order to establish setting and actions.
- **Clarify** STOP! Summarize/explain what you have already read. This is a great place to stop and check your understanding. Read on (and sometimes even reread) and your understanding may change and develop. Note these changes as you read as well.
- **Question** Ask questions about what you are reading. Note anything that confuses you or clarifies meaning.
- **Predict** Try to figure out what will happen next and how the reading might end.
- **Connect** Connect personally with what you are reading. Try to see the similarities between what you have personally experienced and what you're reading.
- **Evaluate** Form opinions about what you've read while reading and reevaluate after you've finished.

¹ Courtesy of powayusd.com

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Passage Mapping (Annotating/Note-Taking)

Passage Mapping is a form of shorthand note-taking that readers can do while reading in order to ensure they can do the following:

- o Read longer passages, and remember what was read
- o Avoid having to go back and reread the entire passage
- o Check for comprehension while reading

Everyone takes notes differently. Therefore, passage mapping notes should be:

- o Brief
- o Personal
- o Follow the Reading

Review the example below²:

Even if you don't know what it is called, you will be familiar with Comic Sans.

It looks as if it was written neatly by an eleven-year-old: smooth and rounded letters, nothing unexpected, the sort of shape that could appear in alphabet soup or as magnets on fridges, or in Adrian Mole's diary.

If you see a word somewhere with each letter in a different color, that word is usually written in Comic Sans.

—————→ Comic Sans
like a kid wrote it
sloppy

Comic Sans is type that has gone wrong.

It was designed by a professional man with a grounding in graphic arts, and it was unleashed upon the world with a kind heart. It was never intended to cause revulsion or loathing, much less end up (as it has) on the side of an ambulance or a gravestone.

It was intended to be fun.

And, oddly enough, it was never intended to be a typeface at all.

—————→ "type gone wrong"
graphic artist created it
not meant to be used
like this

Note how the reader only wrote a few words next to each paragraph, summarizing the main idea. This will allow the reader to refer back to the passage without having to reread it in its entirety.

² Example courtesy of Chris Richards