

Strategies for Reading

Images/Visuals: As a person reads the mind can create pictures of characters, setting, or events. These pictures could be still shots or moving pictures; color or black and white. Strong readers report seeing themselves as part of the action or as one of the characters.

Feelings or Physical Reactions: Readers may also experience emotions associated with the reading. One might feel saddened to the point of tears, or so happy that one laughs aloud. Some literature can evoke anger or disgust. The stronger the feeling, the stronger is a reader's connection to the literature.

Questions: A reader may question the reasons behind events or character's actions. A reader might wonder why characters feel or act they way do. Or a reader might question what will happen next. These questions can bring readers closer to understanding what is being read.

Predictions: A reader can also become more involved in the literature by predicting what happens next or how the story will end. Seeing how accurate guesses are can be challenging and make reading more interesting.

Memories and Echoes : A reader can connect personally with what is read by thinking of similarities between the selection and what one has personally experienced or remembers happening to some one else. A reader can also experience an "echo" when a selection reminds him/her of something such as another story, a movie, a picture or even a commercial.

Words and Phrases: Another way to strengthen the connection to reading is to find words or phrases that are of particular interest or inspiration. Some words may stand out because they evoke a negative reaction such as fear or disgust. Others words are heart warming or beautiful to hear.

Drawings: A connection to the reading can be re-enforced by responding with a drawing of pictures or lines to go with the scenes, characters or events of the story. Drawings can als6 reflect the feelings about the selection.

Retelling: A great way to connect with a literary piece is to retell the story in one's own ways. A satire or parody can be created to make fun of the piece. Songs, poems, or plays are a creative way to retell the story and add insight into the reader's view of the story.