

## Teaching Moves for Comprehension Skills

The Skill:	If the students' talk sounds like...	Some strategies to demonstrate are...	Questions to teach students to keep in mind while reading:	Coaching moves and conversational prompts to use when listening in or book clubs or partnerships...
<b>Retelling</b> (restate characters, setting, and plot in the correct sequence of the story)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “_____ is a boy who...”</li> <li>• “This story takes place in...”</li> <li>• “The story is about a girl who...”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good readers retell by using the story elements.</li> <li>• Good readers retell the main events in the story from the beginning.</li> <li>• Good readers review what we have read since the last time we talked about the book.</li> <li>• Good readers retell by thinking about what the character wanted, did or got.</li> <li>• Good readers retell the main things that happened to one character in the story in order.</li> <li>• Good readers pay especially close attention to the first chapter and carry what we learned with us throughout the book.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What happened so far?</li> <li>• What’s the last thing I remember?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say what you just read...</li> <li>• Say more about that...</li> <li>• Say what the book is about...</li> <li>• Talk about what the character is like...</li> <li>• “First... then... next... finally...”</li> <li>• “This story starts out...”</li> <li>• “What happens at the end of the fi chapter fits with the rest of the bo because...”</li> <li>• “Last time our book club met we talked about...”</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring for Sense</b> (checking understanding of text)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “I know this happened because on page...”</li> <li>• “A part I’m confused about is...”</li> <li>• “What just happened?”</li> <li>• “He couldn’t have done that because...”</li> <li>• “I know because...”</li> <li>• “I’m lost.”</li> <li>• “I’m confused by...”</li> <li>• “What just happened?”</li> <li>• Students react to the text (laughing at funny parts, etc.)</li> <li>• “Oh, I get it...”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good readers monitor for sense by stopping every few pages to retell to ourselves. If we can’t retell we turn the part we forgot into a question and reread to answer it.</li> <li>• Good readers monitor for sense by collecting character names and relationships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does that make sense?</li> <li>• Why did that just happen?</li> <li>• “Can I act this part of the text out? (If not, I should reread to make better sense out of it.)”</li> <li>• “Can I retell what just happened?”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say how you know that.</li> <li>• Show me where.</li> <li>• Give an example of that.</li> <li>• Can you back that up?</li> <li>• Were there any parts that confused you?</li> <li>• “This doesn’t make sense because...”</li> <li>• “I didn’t understand it that way... way I understood it was... Let’s g back and reread that part...”</li> <li>• Now I understand... that makes sense because...”</li> <li>• “No, I think it means...”</li> <li>• “At first I thought..., but now I think...”</li> </ul>



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<b>Determining Importance</b> (the most important details to the plot of the story)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "This book is mostly about..."</li> <li>• "The author keeps mentioning..."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good readers figure out what is important by identifying repeated words, objects or patterns.</li> <li>• Good readers figure out what a text is mostly about by looking to see what part the author spent the most time discussing.</li> <li>• Good readers use the title and chapter headings as clues to what the most important parts of the book will be.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is really important to the character?</li> <li>• What did the character want?</li> <li>• What did I notice repeated in the text?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The most important part is..."</li> <li>• "The most important characters are..."</li> <li>• "The main thing is..."</li> <li>• "What really matters is..."</li> </ul>
<b>Questioning</b> (asking critical questions or questioning comprehension of the book)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Why is _____ like that?"</li> <li>• "I wonder why...?"</li> <li>• "Is this situation fair?"</li> <li>• "I don't know/understand..."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good readers think about ideas we have and ask ourselves, "What else could it be?" to think of new questions and new possibilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do I have questions about this book from reading the title?</li> <li>• Do I have a question I'm investigating while reading this book?</li> <li>• Do I have a question that the author might be able to answer for me?</li> <li>• Why did he do that if...?</li> <li>• Do I know why that happened?</li> <li>• What would another reader think about this text/part?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After reading, talk about your questions that are still not answered. Do you have an idea about the answers?</li> <li>• How did asking that question help you understand what you are reading?</li> <li>• "How did this happen if...?"</li> <li>• "I don't know why..."</li> <li>• "Who is...?"</li> <li>• "What just happened there...?"</li> <li>• "I wonder if...?"</li> <li>• "What do you think about (character/character relationship)?"</li> </ul>
<b>Interpreting</b> (able to articulate the theme, moral, author's purpose or main idea)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "I'm thinking this book is really about..."</li> <li>• "The way I see this is..."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good readers interpret by asking ourselves, "What struck me in this text?"</li> <li>• Good readers interpret by asking ourselves, "What message do I get from this story?"</li> <li>• Good readers interpret by thinking, "What did I learn from this?"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does all of this fit together?</li> <li>• What do I think this really means?</li> <li>• Why would she do that?</li> <li>• What message am I getting from all of this?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Because of... I think..."</li> <li>• "The message that I think the author wants the reader to understand is..."</li> <li>• "I think the character did that because..."</li> <li>• "My conclusion is..."</li> <li>• "Maybe this is a metaphor for..."</li> <li>• "I think the characters are really talking about ..."</li> </ul>



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<b>Inferring about character</b> (learning about characters through their words, thoughts and actions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "I think _____ is the kind of person who..."</li> <li>• "_____ is motivated by..."</li> <li>• "When _____ said that, I realized that he..."</li> <li>• "Maybe she's ..."</li> <li>• "My character is the kind of person that..."</li> <li>• "He feels..."</li> <li>• "I can tell that she..."</li> <li>• "She acts like..."</li> <li>• "He thinks..."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good readers get to know a character by comparing what the character says and thinks with what he does. Then readers ask ourselves, "Do these (actions, words and thoughts) match? If not, what does that tell me about this character?"</li> <li>• Good readers figure out a character's motivations by paying attention to what she does and then asking, "What does this character have to gain as a result of her actions?"</li> <li>• Good readers figure out (infer) the meaning of a new word from the words around it (using context).</li> <li>• Good readers use what we know about the character/story elements to help us understand a new or confusing phrase.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does that tell me about her?</li> <li>• Would I be friends with him? Would I spend a day with him?</li> <li>• What am I realizing about _____?</li> <li>• What word would make sense here?</li> <li>• Why is _____ doing this?</li> <li>• What does a character have to gain by her actions?</li> <li>• What is she thinking?</li> <li>• How do I know that about my character?</li> <li>• Why did the character say, do, want, think, feel that?</li> <li>• What from the book makes me think that about my character?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk about how you are getting to know your character.</li> <li>• The text doesn't tell you – say how you knew that. Talk about what part made you think that.</li> <li>• Talk about what message you think the author wanted us to understand.</li> <li>• Talk about the big ideas in what you are reading.</li> <li>• "I notice... and it makes me think... (about the character)"</li> <li>• "I think the character is feeling/thinking..."</li> <li>• "The character is saying...but I think what he really means is..."</li> <li>• "I know this part says...but I think there is more going on here, like..."</li> <li>• "I think this word/phrase really means... because..."</li> </ul>
<b>Empathizing/ Making Connections</b> (making connections to experiences in own life)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "This reminds me of when I..."</li> <li>• "This is just like..."</li> <li>• "This connects to my own life because..."</li> <li>• "One time I..."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good readers make connections by thinking if we have experienced, read or seen anything similar to what is in the story.</li> <li>• Then readers ask ourselves, "How does this help me understand the story better?"</li> <li>• Good readers get connected to a story by reacting strongly to the text and asking ourselves, "How could...?"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does this experience help me understand the book better?</li> <li>• How does what I just read support or further my theory?</li> <li>• How does that remind me of how people are/the world is?</li> <li>• Does this remind me of anything?</li> <li>• Have I ever...?</li> <li>• How did I feel?</li> <li>• Am I connecting this book with other books I've read?</li> <li>• Can I think of a time that I...?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imagine yourself in this situation.</li> <li>• Speak from the character's point of view.</li> <li>• What do you know now that you didn't know before?</li> <li>• "This part makes me think of..."</li> <li>• "This part feels unrealistic because know in real life that..."</li> <li>• "If I was _____ I would ..."</li> <li>• "I've felt like that."</li> <li>• "I can relate to..."</li> </ul>