

# Guided Reading



## Comprehension Skills

A guided reading lesson on comprehension skills will look very different between the grades.

There are many components to comprehension. Skills in comprehension begin in the basic, low level type questions and advance to a very high level of questioning which is often referred to as critical literacy. Low level questions are referred to as the “on the lines questions, and the higher level questions are referred to as the off the lines questions”. A low level, on the lines question would be something like: Who is the main character in the book? What happens to the main character? What is the problem in the book? The off the lines, higher level questions would be, why did the author write this book? What was his intention? Do you think the problem was solved appropriately, why or why not? Could there be a sequel to this book and what might it look like?

The teacher would select one or possibly two comprehension skills to focus the guided reading lesson on.

### **Here is a list of comprehension skills that are often used during guided reading:**

Main idea	<i>Knowing what is important,</i>
Understanding cause and effect	<i>What happened that led to the event,</i>
Summarizing	<i>Knowing important ideas, re-stating them</i>
Determining author’s purpose	<i>Knowing why the author wrote it</i>
Making inferences	<i>Drawing conclusions, drawing most likely explanations</i>
Distinguishing facts from opinions	<i>Knowing what is factual and what is the opinion of the author</i>
Distinguishing fantasy from reality	<i>Knowing what is real and what is not</i>
Use contextual clues	<i>Finding understanding/meaning from explanations, pictures or text</i>
Make inferences	<i>Similar to cause/effect, making logical inferences based on textual info.</i>
Draw conclusions	<i>Take the author’s hints and clues to draw a conclusion</i>
Understand figurative and literal language	<i>Knowing similes, metaphors, hyperbole, and personification vs exactly what is said</i>
Understand characters	<i>Make accurate descriptions about a character based on text and inferences</i>
Determine the setting and plot	<i>Use the text to be able to tell what the setting and plot is</i>
Make connections	<i>Connect with reminders of self, other happenings, other books...</i>
Determine the main idea	<i>Combine the important facts and information to determine the main idea</i>
Understand sequence	<i>Be able to re-tell the important events in order</i>
Determine point of view	<i>Knowing from which point of view the story is being told</i>
Use supporting facts	<i>Supporting facts help to understand main idea, characters, plot...</i>
Visualizing	<i>Describing mental images based on what was read</i>
Determining relevance and importance	<i>Deciding what events are important to conclude, determine main idea, plot, theme...</i>
Questioning	<i>Questioning when something doesn’t make sense, re-reading</i>