

What is an Advancing Readers student working on?

- Retelling the events of a story, historical event, or process in order.
- Identifying story elements: characters, setting, plot, problem and solution.
- Making inferences to figure out things that the author hasn't explicitly stated.
- Describing characters based on their actions, words, and motivations.
- Identifying the main idea and key details in an informational text.
- Inferring the author's message of a literature or informational text.
- Summarizing the most important information in a nonfiction text or events in a literature text.
- Identifying the cause and effect of different events in a nonfiction text.



How can I support students?

With retelling events:

- Retell the story across their hand. Have the student touch each fingertip as they explain the event in the story.
- Write the events of a story or process on post-its and place them out of order. Have the student move the post-its to place the events in the order that they happened in the text.

With making inferences:

- Play a guessing game in which you act out different emotions using body language and gestures. Have the student infer how you are feeling based on these actions.
- Use riddles to help the student build inferential thinking. Describe a common scenario and have the student infer what is happening. For example, "You look out the window and everyone is carrying umbrellas. The sky is gray. What is happening outside?" The student would then infer, "It is raining."

With describing characters:

- Ask the student to describe members of their family or their friends as if they were characters. Have them explain why they described each person in this way.
- Provide the student with a list of personality traits: brave, shy, outgoing, kind, generous, sneaky, etc. to use as a menu when describing a character in a book.

With identifying the main idea of a text:

- Ask the student, "What is the text mostly about?"
- Have the student use their hand to explain the main idea and key details. Have them touch the palm of one hand while explaining the main idea and tick off each finger as they list the key details.

With identifying cause and effect:

- Point out cause and effect in daily tasks. Ex: Heating up a pot of water **causes** the **effect** of water boiling.
- Remind the student that a cause is 'why' something happens and the effect is 'what' happens.

With understanding of books they bring home and to reinforce the following skills:

- Identifying story elements: characters, setting, plot, problem and solution in a story
- Inferring the author's message of a literature or nonfiction text.
- Summarizing the most important information in a nonfiction text or events in a literature text.

BEFORE reading:

- Read the title and author.
- Flip through the text and make a prediction about the story or information in the book.

DURING reading:

- Who are the main and supporting characters?
- When and where does the story take place?
- Why do you think [character] reacted to [event] in this way?
- Why do you think the character said/thought [insert quote]?
- What words could you use to describe [character?]. Why would you describe them in this way?
- What do you picture in the mind as you read this?
- What do you think the author means by [quote from text?]. Share the thoughts.
- For nonfiction: How do the photos/charts/graphs help you understand the topic?

AFTER reading:

- Retell the story. Include the problem, solution and major plot events.
- Summarize the information presented in the text. Include only the most important details.
- How did the character change throughout the story?
- What did the characters in the story learn?
- What did you learn from this text?
- Share a possible author's message of the book (something the author wants readers to learn or a big idea the story is about, like courage or family).