

# Strategies for Active Reading

## Active Readers:

- **Monitor Comprehension**
  - listen to their inner voice and follow the inner conversation,
  - notice when meaning breaks down and/or mind wanders
  - leave tracks of their thinking by jotting thoughts when reading
  - stop, think and react to information
  - talk about the reading before, during and after reading
  - respond to reading in writing
  - employ “fix up strategies” ---reread for clarification, read on to construct meaning, use context to break down an unfamiliar word, skip difficult parts and continue on to see if meaning becomes clear, check and recheck answers and thinking, examine evidence
  
- **Activate and Connect to Background Knowledge**
  - refer to prior personal experience
  - activate prior knowledge of the content, style, structure, features and genre
  - connect the new to the known- use what they know to understand new information
  - merge their thinking with new learning to build knowledge base
  - activate their schema to read strategically
  
- **Ask Questions**
  - wonder about the content, concepts, outcomes and genre
  - question the author
  - question the ideas and the information
  - read to discover answers and gain information
  - wonder about the text to understand big ideas
  - do further research and investigation to gain information

## □ Infer and Visualize Meaning

- use context clues to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words
- draw conclusions from text evidence
- predict outcomes, events and characters' actions
- surface underlying themes
- answer questions that are not explicitly answered in the text
- create interpretations based on text evidence
- visualize as well as hear, taste, smell and feel the words and ideas

## □ Determine Importance

- sift important ideas from interesting but less important details
- target key information and code the text to hold thinking
- distinguish between what the reader thinks is important and what the author most wants the reader to take away
- construct main ideas from supporting details
- choose what to remember

## □ Synthesize and Summarize

- take stock of meaning while reading
- add to knowledge base
- paraphrase information
- move from facts to ideas
- use the parts to see the whole--read for the gist
- rethink misconceptions and tie opinions to the text
- revise thinking during and after reading
- merge what is known with new information to form a new idea, perspective, or insight
- generate knowledge