

Comprehension

Pre-Reading:

Ultimately, our reading goal is to comprehend or understand the text. We will spend many hours of second grade engaged in meaningful conversations around authentic texts. Good readers bring background knowledge and their own experiences to text, thereby creating a deeper understanding. Because second graders have few worldly experiences, the **Building Background** pre-reading instruction that we do is crucial to the understanding.

During Reading:

Good readers constantly ask questions as they read. As they find the answer to one question, another follows. We also call this predicting. Don't you try to figure out what will happen in books you read? Then when the plot twists, you try to figure out what will happen next? As adults, we take this strategy for granted, but emerging readers must be guided through stories until they understand how to do this independently.

After Reading:

A simple way to check comprehension is to use the attached **Story Star**. It is a quick questioning tool that you can use, even if you haven't read the story. Please find time several times a week to talk about what your child is reading during their sustained reading time. The sample questions are just the beginning to the conversations you can have. If you ask a yes/no type question, encourage your child to support their choice using both the text and their experience.

For Example: "In this story, did the iguana make a good pet?" There will be evidence in the story to support an answer as well as evidence in their brain to support an answer.

I am very excited to get started this year. I know that watching children become independent readers and readers who read for enjoyment as well as to learn is one of the best part of my job!

