

Reading Power

Helping Your Children Become
More Powerful Readers and Thinkers

A Guide for Parents

"Meaning is constructed in the realm where readers meet the words in the text and consider the ideas in terms of their own experience and knowledge."

—Stephanie Harvey

What is Reading Power?

Reading Power is a reading comprehension program that teachers at this school are using to help students develop comprehension skills to become more powerful readers and thinkers. The five comprehension strategies, or Reading Powers, we are teaching are:

- 1. Connect:** What does the story remind me of?
- 2. Question:** What am I wondering about this story?
- 3. Visualize:** What pictures can I make in my head from this story?
- 4. Infer:** What am I thinking about this story that isn't actually written?
- 5. Transform:** How has my thinking changed because of this story?

What are the Key Ideas?

- Learning to read involves two distinct, yet equally important components:
 - Decoding:** the ability to read the words on the page with fluency and accuracy
 - Comprehension:** the ability to construct meaning from the text
- Comprehension strategies need to be **taught directly** and explicitly so that students can understand what thinking looks like and sounds like.
- **Common language** of these thinking strategies is essential for helping students acquire the "language of thinking" across the grades.
- **Metacognition**, or "awareness of thinking," is an important component of this program
- We have two voices: a **speaking voice** and a **thinking voice**. Good readers pay attention to their **thinking voice** while they read.
- Teachers and parents can **model** their **thinking voice** while they read to and with their children, to help teach and reinforce the strategies

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Reading Power Connecting

When we read a story, it reminds each of us of different things. This reminding is also called "connecting."

It reminds me of...

My memories.



Other books.



Movies or television.



The world.



Reading Power Connecting

Steps to connect:

1. Choose a book that reminds you of your life in some way. This could be memories of your childhood, a place you visited, someone you know.
2. Begin to read the book out loud with your "speaking voice."
3. While reading, stop at a place where you make a connection. Share this connection, your "thinking voice," with your child: "This reminds me of..."
4. Ask your child to share her or his connections with you.