COMPREHENSION: A PREREQUISITE TO READING

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Reading is a complex cognitive process of decoding symbols to derive meaning while comprehension is an act or action of grasping intellect or understanding (Rutzler, 2017). Thus, reading comprehension is the processing of text, understanding its meaning, and integrating with what the reader already knows. A person reads to understand the meaning of a given word. Reading cannot be defined without the person understanding the combination of letters in a text. If a person cannot understand what he or she reads, there will be no purpose in reading. Comprehension is a prerequisite to reading. That is how important these two terms should always be coined and accomplished together.

There is a misconception that a good reader is a fast reader. It is a vague statement since comprehension is needed to define a good reader. To be a good reader, one must understand meaningfully and constructively what he or she reads. Here are some ways to improve the reading comprehension of students and become good readers. Some students lose interest once they encounter unfamiliar words. Introducing the pronunciation and meaning of difficult words will help them prepare for what will be read. Once they are introduced to unfamiliar words, reading and comprehension can flow smoothly.

The instance of queries, during, and after can improve the reading comprehension of a student. Before reading, ask questions that can set the reader's mind and get ideas on the selection context. During the reading, the teacher can ask supplemental questions like who the characters are, the setting, and what the conflict seems to be. Inquiries about the lesson of the story or the reader's reflection can be asked after reading. This questioning can stimulate the mind of the reader as he or she goes through reading the selection.
Relating the readers' selection can also help in reading comprehension as the reader sees the passage in their paradigm. Let the students share experiences that can be connected to the selection. Using words that the reader can relate to and is within the reader's vocabulary will be of great support to the child.

Visualization can also improve reading comprehension. Some students find it hard to imagine the story. The use of imagery and adjectives within the vocabulary of the child is also helpful. Likewise, the teacher can ask the student to summarize or write a plot about the selection just read to check for the reader's comprehension (Lee, 2014). Predicting outcomes and making inferences can also be used to evaluate the child's understanding of the story. If there is a difficulty, the teacher can guide the student to write an outline instead of a paragraph. The teacher should always check for confusion. Any problem should be dealt with as soon as it arises. These are just some recommendations to improve the reading comprehension of a child. The teacher can come up with more creative and engaging activities to aid the students.

Comprehension while reading is essential. Reading without purpose is dull and pointless for a student. He or she has to have objectives to drive them to read. If he or she can go to a place where the author wants him or her to be, it will not be boring any more for them. Making them understand what they read can do just that. Otherwise, it will be merely making sounds out of letters written on a book or paper. There is only one way for any student to read, which is through comprehension.

References:
