Reading and comprehension are just some of the challenges that students and teachers are facing nowadays.

Reading and comprehension is challenging to both students and teachers. Students obviously need to learn how to read, not just read but read fluently and smoothly, not much stuttering over words or unable to pronounce and read simple and basic words. On the other hand, teachers need to give their time and attention in ensuring that their students are able to read. Needless to say, teachers and students, along with the parents, shall cooperate and collaborate to make it happen.

There are alarming cases of high school students who aren’t able to read smoothly, unlike of what are expected for their age. And this is a big problem, a challenge to teachers of the higher years to teach the student, and a wake-up call to the lower year teachers to work harder in teaching reading.

And aside from reading, it is crucial for students to not only be able to read, but also to comprehend, understand, what they have read and be able to make concepts out of it.

And here are some tips from an article entitled “How to Improve Reading Comprehension for Kids” that may help the students in honing their reading and comprehension skills.

First is to find books that they’ll like. Of course, how else would you encourage a student to read if not for giving them a book that interests them? Reading is more fun and
easier if you enjoy what you are reading. Second is to read aloud. Reading aloud helps
the students to understand the right pronunciation of words, and as studies show,
hearing helps more in understanding and keeping information in their heads than simple
reading silently. Third is to skim the headings of the text. This gives brief outlook on what
he or she will be reading, and give them better understanding on the topic. Fourth is re-
read sections that are confusing. Of course, practice makes perfect. And re-reading parts
that are confusing or difficult for them, along with the guidance of the teachers, would
help the students to understand it. Fifth is to use a ruler or finger to follow along. This is
to make sure that you are reading the right or correct flow of what you’re reading.
Reading with just the eyes may be confusing, and you may jump to other sentences
instead of reading smoothly. Sixth is to write down words you don’t know. This is
effective by writing them down, checking their meaning in a dictionary, and trying to
memorize or familiarize yourself with the words, such that when you encounter them
again, you will remember and understand their meanings. Seventh is to discuss what
your child has just read. Let them form their own sentences or reiterate the story as to
how they understood it. It helps with the cooperation of the teachers and parents. Eighth
is to recap and summarize the main points. Let the students find the main idea of the
story and let them summarize as to how they remember and understand. Ninth is to write
down questions about what you don’t understand. With the help of the teachers, these
curious questions will be answered, and the student’s learning is broadened. Tenth is to
use different formats. Of course, not all students are alike in their learning methods. Some
learn by hearing, by seeing, by imagining, and such. Let the students find the best format
of learning for them and use these to its potential to improve their reading and
comprehension skills. Eleventh is to identify reading problems. Some cases are in which
students have reading problems, slurring their words, stuttering, and these, I believe, can
be corrected by the help of the teachers and parents. Practice continuously on these
problems and support the student with patience and determination. And finally, twelfth,
is to get a reading tutor. This method is useful by practicing at home. But it doesn’t
necessarily mean that you need to hire a tutor. Even parents can do this with their children at home. They just need to be cooperative and patient in teaching their children. As they say, learning starts at home.

There are many ways on improving reading and comprehension skills. But underneath it all, what’s important is that there is a collaboration and cooperation between the teachers, the students, and the parents.

References: