

Pedagogy Overview: Comprehension

What is reading comprehension?

Reading comprehension is the insightful translation of written text into meaning in order to gain understanding. It is an active process that involves not just the meanings of words in isolation but the relationship among words within sentences and paragraphs. It is the purpose of reading.

How do comprehension skills impact reading proficiency?

Proficient readers use their prior knowledge and experience, in combination with their understanding of vocabulary and knowledge of language structure to derive meaning from a text. Because underlying language skills are the foundation for reading comprehension, instruction must support the development of both listening as well as reading comprehension. During the reading process, skilled readers interpret a text, integrate it with prior knowledge, and constantly monitor their comprehension with attention to the purpose for reading. Close reading, higher-order analytic reading of text for learning, is critical to reading proficiency and academic success. Through close reading, readers not only improve their comprehension of the text itself but also enrich their knowledge, vocabulary, awareness of syntax and text structure, and self-efficacy for learning. These in turn foster proficiency, engagement, and the enjoyment of reading.

How does Lexia® PowerUp Literacy® develop comprehension skills?

The goal of reading comprehension instruction is for students to become independent and strategic readers. Using increasingly complex texts that are appealing and relevant to non-proficient readers in grades 6 and above, **Lexia PowerUp Literacy** teaches students the skills and strategies needed for higher-order analysis. The Comprehension strand of PowerUp systematically guides students through the process of reading a text deeply. Before students read a leveled text, academic vocabulary is introduced and practiced. Hook videos pique students' interest and establish a purpose for reading. During the initial reading of the text, key text-specific vocabulary words appear with images and definitions to support comprehension. Comprehension skills and strategies are introduced through engaging instructional videos. Next, appropriately scaffolded introductions, prompts, and transitions guide the students through a close reading of the text. Students are then asked to find evidence in the text, answer text-dependent questions, and complete text-dependent tasks that lead them from a general to a deeper understanding of the text. Students learn to identify key ideas and details of a text, examine how the author conveys his or her ideas, and determine what the text implies. Ultimately, students use their analytical skills to evaluate two texts or other media.

Lexia PowerUp Literacy presents non-proficient readers with increasingly complex authentic literary and informational texts and teaches students the skills and strategies they need to comprehend and analyze texts for deeper meaning and learning.