



## Assistive Technology for Reading

Reading is such a crucial skill for students. They have to learn to read in order to access the information shared with them in the educational setting. Many of our students do pick up reading without any problems but what do we do, what can we do for those students who struggle with reading every day? We see the frustration in their eyes and in their efforts and it breaks our hearts.

In an effort to make your days easier and give success to your students who struggle with reading, here are some things you might consider for them:

### Pre Reading:

Good Readers	Poor Readers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Think about what they already know about a subject</li> <li>* Know the purpose for which they read</li> <li>* Are motivated or interested to begin reading</li> <li>* Have a general sense of how the BIG ideas will fit together</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Begin to read without thinking about the topic</li> <li>*Do not know why they are reading</li> <li>* Lack interest and motivation to begin reading</li> <li>* Have a little sense of how the BIG ideas fit together</li> </ul>

### Some pre-reading strategies:

- Set a purpose for reading
- Build Background Knowledge
- Recognition and formulation of main idea at paragraph level and multi-paragraph level
- Predict and check
- Vocabulary preview

### Some pre-reading Technology Implementation:

- Spinners—set purpose questions, background knowledge, build interest
- Images and video—Build background knowledge and curiosity, storyboard, scripting
- Electronic Reading Systems—Skim headings, turn headings into pre-reading questions
- Bookmarking—mark main sections, breaks in reading time
- Highlighting—new vocabulary, mark main ideas ahead of time
- Graphic Organizers—KWL, Story Mapping

### During Reading

Good Readers	Poor Readers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pay simultaneous attention to words and meanings</li> <li>• Read fluently</li> <li>• Concentrate well while reading</li> <li>• Willing to “risk” encountering difficult words and able to grapple with text ambiguities</li> <li>• Construct efficient strategies to monitor comprehension</li> <li>• Stop to use a “fix-it” strategy when confused</li> <li>• Reading skills improve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over attend to individual words; miss salience</li> <li>• Read slower and at the same rate of speed</li> <li>• Have difficulty concentrating particularly during silent reading</li> <li>• Unwilling to “risk” easily defeated by difficult words and text</li> <li>• Unable to construct efficient strategies to monitor comprehension</li> <li>• Seldom use a “fix-it” strategy; plod ahead eager to finish</li> <li>• Reading progress is painfully slow</li> </ul>

### Some During Reading Strategies:

- Echo and Choral Reading
- Answer pre-reading questions
- Story Mapping
- Predict Ahead
- Outlining
- Highlighting stated main idea
- Paraphrase inferred main idea
- Highlighting supportive main idea
- Create Pictures of Settings, characters

### Some During Reading Technology Implementation

- Post it notes
- Post it tape
- Flags
- Hi-Liter pen
- Highlighter tape, tabs, wide tape
- Rubber stamps
- Mailing labels
- Colored tabs

### After Reading

Good Readers	Poor Readers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand how the pieces of information fit together</li> <li>• Able to identify what’s salient</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not understand how the pieces of information fit together</li> <li>• May focus on extraneous peripheral</li> </ul>

• Interested in reading more	• See reading as distasteful
------------------------------	------------------------------

**Some After Reading Strategies:**

Review- Highlights, Bookmarks, Notes  
Character Dramatizations  
Reflection  
Fortune Teller Question Review  
Responding  
Summarizing and paraphrasing  
Synthesizing and summarizing

**Some After Reading Technology Implementation:**

- Tape Players/Digital Recorders: return to key sections, reread from counters
- Graphic Organizers: : may whole to parts and parts to whole, emphasize main idea, aid discussion, memory flash card reviews, Venn Diagrams
- Electronic Reading Systems: review notes, summaries, skim headings
- Multimedia Systems: create review games, fortune tellers
- Internet: research, questions explored, further background development

I have a whole PDF file of free product resources that can help with student reading skills at the various levels. If you are interested in any of them, please contact me and I am happy to share. The product list is just too long to include here.

**Some websites for your consideration: These websites are provided as information only. Assistive Technology is an IEP process which is a team decision. If something here makes you think that a student may benefit from the product or website, please go to the IEP team with your thoughts before implementing. Although I reviewed all the websites prior to posting here, please understand that links are often changed without notice. If something here no longer applies, please contact [pkeeling@ccusd93.org](mailto:pkeeling@ccusd93.org) and advise her that the website no longer reflects the topic being considered.**

[www.aesopfables.com](http://www.aesopfables.com)

Aesop fables printed out with lesson plans and vocabulary helps. There are also lesson plan ideas that reflect the fable's intent.

[www.ipl.org](http://www.ipl.org)

Public library e books. Books for children, teens and adults. Books can be read to the student or can just be viewed. Not all books are accessible.

[www.cliffnotes.com](http://www.cliffnotes.com)

A good website for those needing the "short" version of stories. There are vocabulary helps and comprehension questions for books and some chapters of various books. There are also helps for other subject areas besides literature.

[www.ldonline.org](http://www.ldonline.org)

A resource for parents and teachers regarding assistive technology helps for all academic areas.

[www.wordtalk.org.uk](http://www.wordtalk.org.uk)

A free download that will read text printed or pasted into a word document and highlights each word as it is spoken.