




Lesson 8

Lesson Highlights

- Fluency is the ability to read text with automaticity, accurately, and with good prosody. Fluency is that quality of oral language that allows the reader to read text quickly and accurately and with almost effortless comprehension. Fluency promotes memory and applications. When students can read fluently, comprehension improves dramatically.
- High levels of fluency allow for the development of automaticity, which frees the reader to concentrate on the meaning of text.
- Reading comprehension involves the interaction between the reader's knowledge, text variables, reader interest, and the quality of teaching.
- Students need to learn effective strategies in order to develop meaning from text (e.g., comprehension monitoring, cooperative learning, graphic organizers, question answering, question generating, story structure, and summarization).
- The most effective ways to teach comprehension strategies are direct explanation, modeling, guided practice, and application. Explicit instruction needs to take place in decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.
- Good readers are active thinkers when comprehending text. Model how students can make text-to-self, text-to-text, and text-to-world connections as they read.
- Teaching a combination of comprehension strategies will improve results on standardized comprehension tests. Small group instruction is crucial to effective comprehension instruction.
- The purpose of assessment is to plan instruction and to provide information to parents and students about the students' academic progress.



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