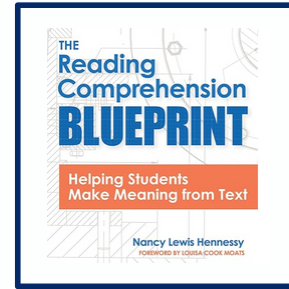


Instructional Tip

This month's Instructional Tip is compliments of Nancy Hennessey and her new book, *The Reading Comprehension Blueprint*

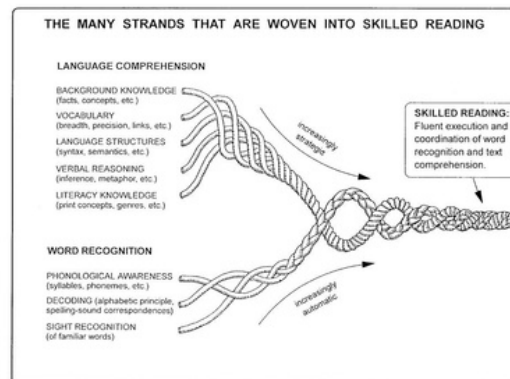


A Critical Contributor to Comprehension: Vocabulary

Reading comprehension is not a skill someone learns and then can apply in different reading contexts. It is one of the most complex behaviors that we engage in on a regular basis and our ability to comprehend is dependent upon a wide range of skills and knowledge.

Catts, 2021-2022

While multiple sources of knowledge & skills are critical to making meaning of text, language comprehension plays a pivotal role. Consider the integrated upper strands of the Reading Rope (Scarborough, 2001) that illustrate essential contributors to comprehension itself. Note that the student's ability to access vocabulary (word meaning) is critical to constructing meaning.



Our knowledge of word meaning, including the size, richness and ease of access, is dependent on several factors including our interactions with oral and written language over time. In the school setting, an informed approach to vocabulary instruction includes intentional or direct instruction of word meaning and independent word learning strategies (use of dictionary, morphology & context) as well as incidental or indirect opportunities focused on acquiring word meanings. While a multifaceted instructional approach is important, the educator's primary focus is typically on explicitly teaching the meaning of words encountered in their student's texts. Designing informed instruction for this purpose demands a knowledge of what the science has told us is effective. For example, there is consensus that instruction should provide (Stahl, 2000, McKeown, 2019):

- both definitional & contextual information,
- opportunities for students to actively process word meaning,
- and have multiple encounters in varied contexts.



Vocabulary Routine

Teacher	Student
<p>Pronounces targeted word-compromise. Asks questions about linguistic structure.</p> <p>How many syllables? Any morphemes? Part of speech?</p>	<p>Listens & pronounces targeted word aloud.</p> <p>3 syllables co(m)-prefix noun-what verb-action</p>
<p>Asks students to repeat.</p>	<p>Echoes targeted word - compromise</p>
<p>Explains the meaning in everyday language. A compromise can be an act/thing or action. It is a way to settle differences between individuals or groups.</p>	<p>Listens to explanation of meaning.</p>
<p>Provides examples from context (text selection) and for other situations. <i>The Founding of American Democracy</i></p> <p>Many colonists disagreed on what needed to be done to guarantee democracy. Some delegates wanted to just make changes to the Articles of Confederation. Others wanted to start from scratch. In the end, everyone had to make <u>compromises</u>.</p> <p>Ask students for other examples/situations.</p> <p>Have you ever had to compromise? When?</p> <p>How would you describe the compromise?</p>	<p>Responds to targeted questions.</p>
<p>Says, spells, and writes the word. compromise c o m p r o m i s e compromise</p> <p><i>Compromise from the text selection: The Founding of American Democracy (Mc Birney, 2016)</i></p>	<p>Repeats & writes in notebook, on cards, log, etc. <i>compromise</i> <i>com pro mise</i> <i>compromise</i></p> <p>©Hennessy & Salamone, 2024</p>



Instructional Tip

But we are not quite done! While we have addressed both definitional and contextual information and even provided an opportunity to connect to the phonology, orthography & syntax of the word, we still need to think about engaging students and providing multiple opportunities for practice & processing. So, stay tuned. Next month's instructional tip will explore some of those possibilities in a second routine.

And if you want to really dig deep, consider signing up for a summer book study with Nancy Hennessy, IDA NC, and The Reading League NC. Use the QR code below to register.

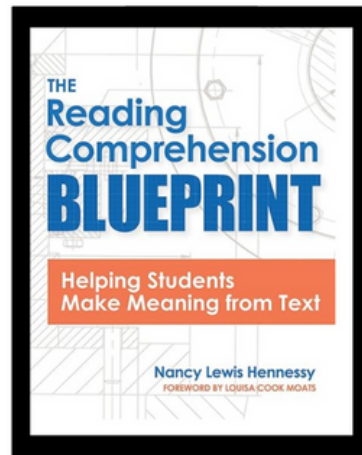
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May to September 2024



This study will feature
The Reading Comprehension Blueprint
by Nancy Hennessy.

- ✓ Virtual Attendance
- ✓ Sessions featuring the Author
- ✓ Continuing Education Certificate available
- ✓ Save 10% - use code RCBNC24 at Brookes Publishing



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