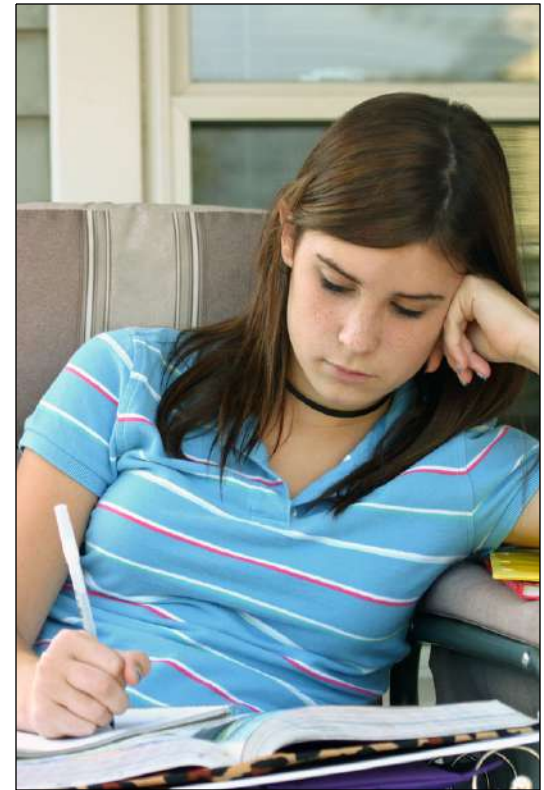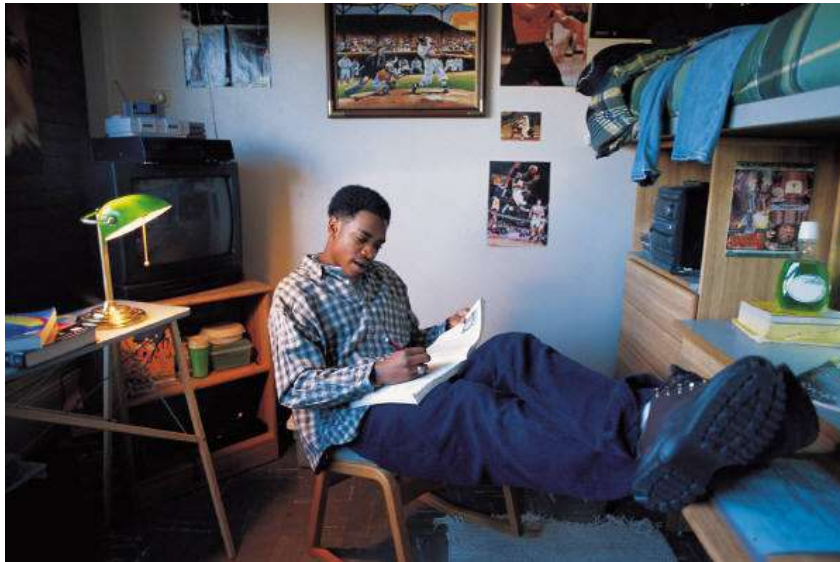# Reading across the Curriculum
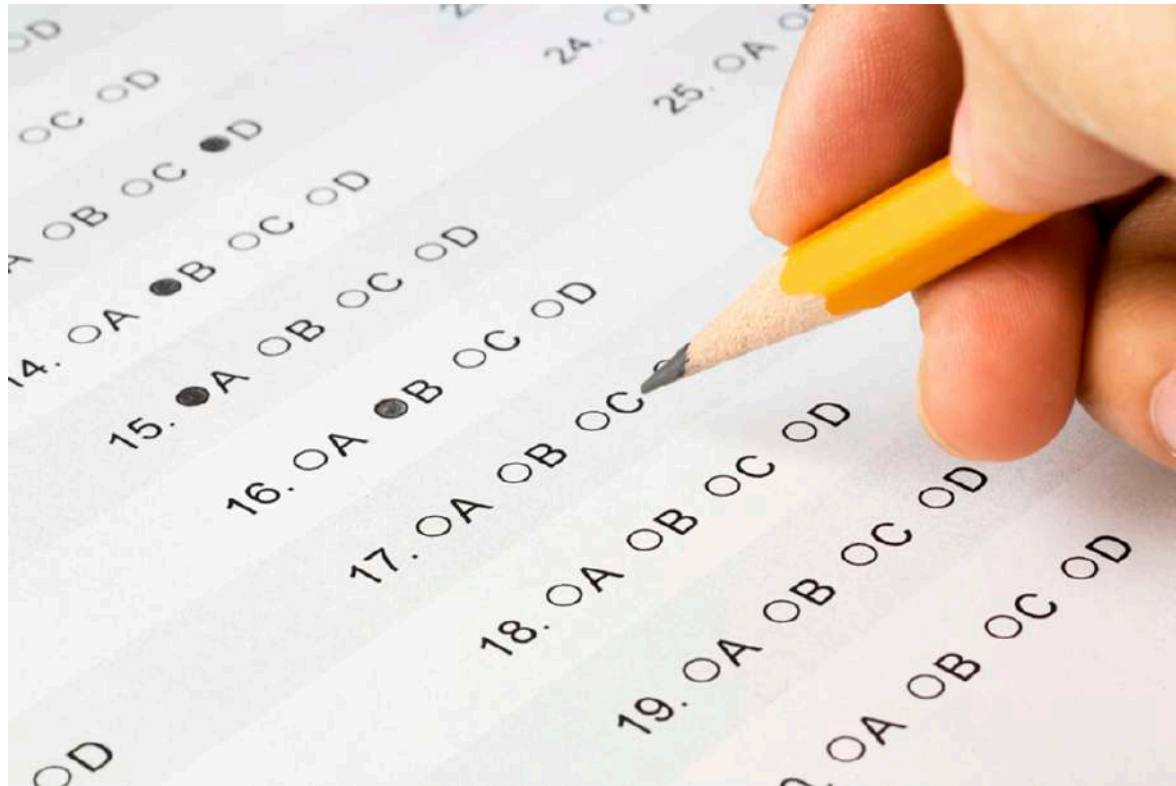
- Helping Our Students Master Content-Area Reading

Luella High School
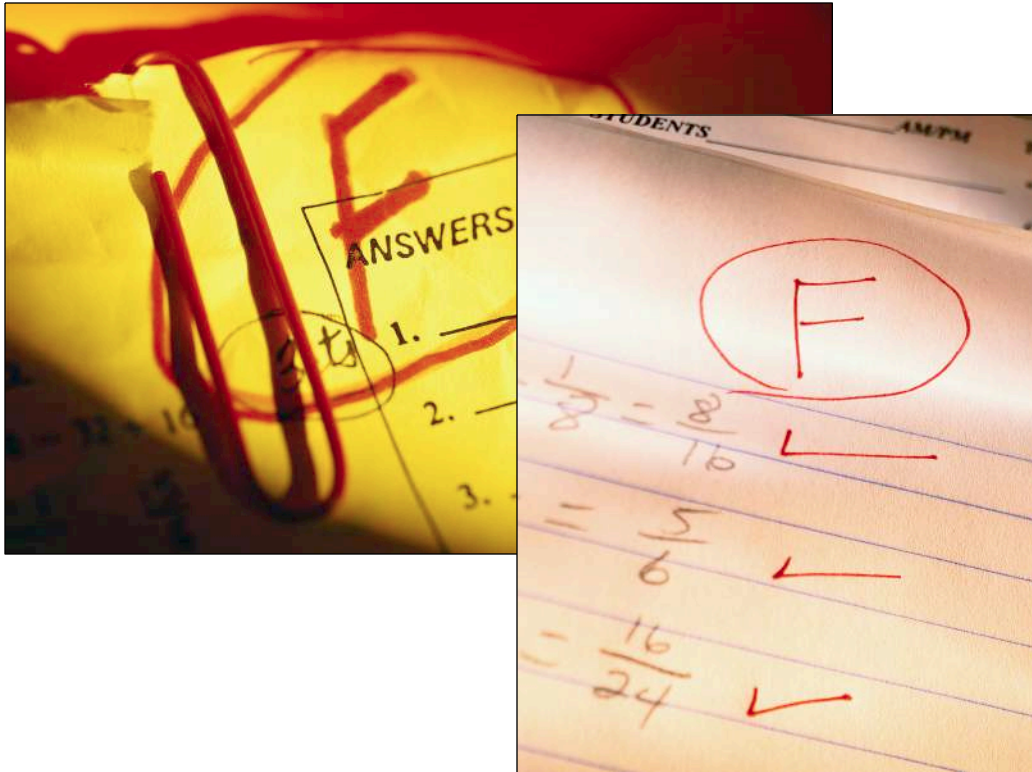January 5, 2011
Denise Wood

Read Chapter 7 and answer the questions on page 183.

Pop Quiz!

Oops!

How Hard Could It Be?

The Batsmen were merciless against the Bowlers. The Bowlers placed their men in slips and covers. But to no avail. The Batsmen hit one four after another along with an occasional six. Not once did their balls hit their stumps or get caught.

Quiz

- Who were merciless against the Bowlers?
- Where did the Bowlers place their men?
- Was this strategy successful?
- Who hit an occasional six?
- How many times did the Batsmen's balls hit a stump?

National Assessment of Educational Progress:

- High school seniors performing at or above the basic level in reading on the NAEP decreased from 80% in 1992 to 73% in 2005 (then rose 2 points in 2009).

- Over the same period, seniors performing at or above the proficient level decreased from 40% to 38%.

- About 70% of high school students need some form of remediation; the most common problem is that *students cannot comprehend the words they read*—not that they cannot read them.

Student literacy problems often *start* in high school

- According to ACT, Inc., only 52 percent of 2010 ACT-tested high school graduates are ready for college-level reading.

- A 2006 ACT report indicated that "more students are on track to being ready for college-level reading in eighth and tenth grade than are actually ready by the time they reach twelfth grade."
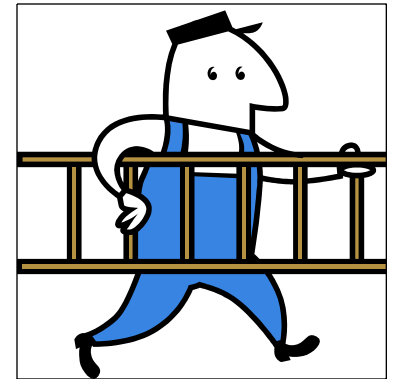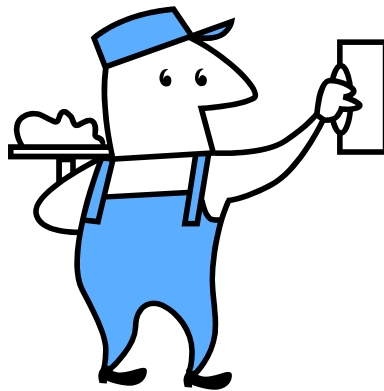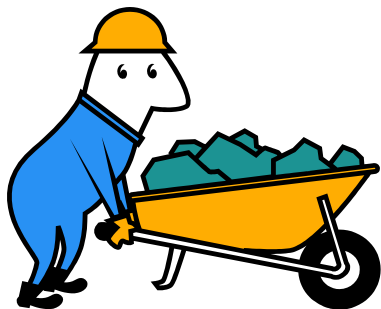
Postsecondary success depends on literacy

- A 2007 report showed 78% of proficient readers were employed, while 56% of basic readers and only 45% of those reading below basic level were employed.

- Adults with lower levels of literacy earn lower salaries than their more literate peers.

- A 2006 survey showed 63% of employers rated reading comprehension as "very important" for new employees, but almost 40% of employers found high school graduates to be deficient in this area.
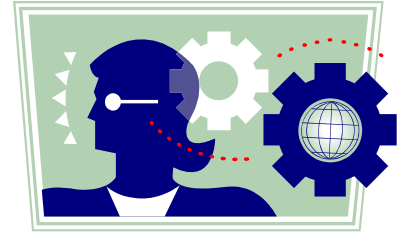
Southern Regional Education Board, 2009:

"Since reading with comprehension varies by subject, all teachers in all subjects need to be able to assist students in understanding different texts. While *all teachers need not become reading experts*, teachers should *know strategies to help students* sharpen their reading skills across all key academic subjects. In short, teachers in every subject hold the solution to the reading challenge."
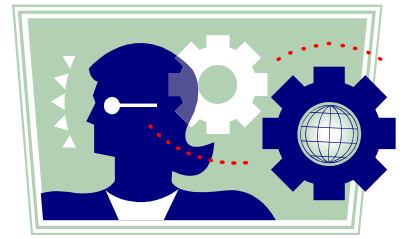
How Smart Readers Think

- Reading is more than "decoding."
- Reading is an active, constructive process.
- Good readers have a repertoire of thinking strategies they use to comprehend texts.

Thinking Strategies of Effective Readers

- Visualize (make mental pictures or sensory images)
- Connect (connect to own experience, to events in the world, to other readings)
- Question (actively wonder, bring up uncertainties, interrogate the text)
- Self-monitor (recognize and act on confusion, uncertainty, and attention problems)

Thinking Strategies (continued)

- Recall (retell, summarize, remember information)

- Infer (predict, hypothesize, interpret, draw conclusions)

- Analyze (notice text structures, author's craft, vocabulary, purpose, theme, point of view)

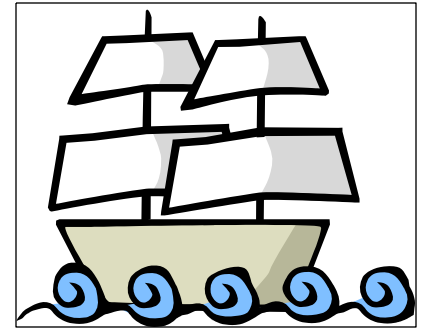- Evaluate (determine importance, make judgments)

Showing Kids How Smart Readers Think: Think-Aloud

- Read a passage aloud while students read along.
- Stop repeatedly along the way to explain your mental processing of the ideas in the passage.
- After modeling, let students try it in pairs, small groups, or as a class.
- If students get stuck, point out key spots where they can stop; ask them if they have any questions or are reminded of anything.
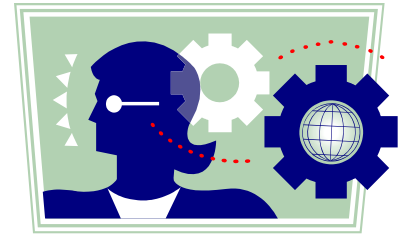
Why Is Content-Area Reading So Hard?

With hocked gems financing him, our hero bravely defied all scornful laughter that tried to prevent his scheme. "Your eyes deceived" he had said. "An egg not a table correctly typifies this unexplored planet." Now three sturdy sisters sought proof. Forging along sometimes through calm vastness, yet more often over turbulent peaks and valleys. Days became weeks as many doubters spread fearful rumors about the edge. At last, welcome winged creatures appeared signifying success.

Oh! So *that's* what you were talking about.

- Schema: a web that stores and connects all the information in our mind related to a given topic.

- Understanding a passage requires activating the appropriate schema.

- Prior knowledge is the *main determinant* of comprehension.

- To learn new information, we must attach it, connect it, and integrate it with information we already have.

Stages of Reading: Before Reading

➢ Set purpose for reading

➢ Activate prior knowledge (schema)

➢ Develop questions

➢ Make predictions

Strategies To Use before Reading

- Brainstorming
- Clustering
- KWL
- ERT
- Anticipation Guide
- Read-Aloud

A Quick Detour: Reading Aloud

- Benefits
  - Builds background information
  - Increases conceptual vocabulary
  - Models fluent reading
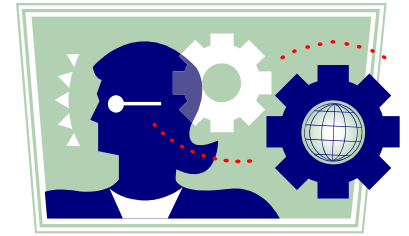 - Helps students grasp big ideas and questions
- How?
  - Variety of well-written texts in clear, vivid language
  - Slightly above reading level
  - Explore important issues, surprising experiences, or fascinating, funny, or thought-provoking problems

Students Reading Aloud

- Students sign up, practice ahead of time
- Improves reading fluency → increases comprehension
- Reading multiple times also increases comprehension
- Authentic texts—poetry, famous speeches, jokes, famous documents (e.g., Constitution, Declaration of Independence)
- Choral reading—reader's theater, antiphonal reading with variations, call and response

Strategies To Use before Reading

- Brainstorming
- Clustering
- KWL
- ERT
- Anticipation Guide
- Read-Aloud
- Dramatic Role Play
- Probable Passage
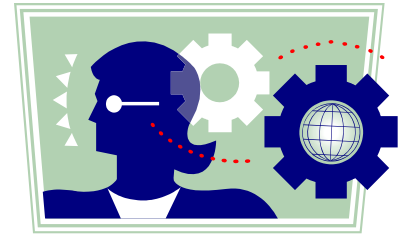
Stages of Reading: During Reading

- ➤ Sample text
- ➤ Visualize
- ➤ Hypothesize
- ➤ Confirm/alter predictions
- ➤ Monitor comprehension

Petoskey

Strategies to Use While Reading

- Post-It Notes
- Coding Text
- Bookmarks
- Double-Entry Journals
- Sketching
- It Says/I Say/And So
- Pair/Share

Stages of Reading: After Reading

- ➢ Recall/retell
- ➢ Evaluate
- ➢ Discuss
- ➢ Reread
- ➢ Apply
- ➢ Read more

Strategies To Use after Reading

- Exit Slips/Admit Slips
- Question Swap (Skinny vs. Fat)
- Mapping
- Save the Last Word for Me
- RAFT
- Drama
- Art

Vocabulary Strategies

- Word Splash

Sample Word Splash

Mutation

DNA

Heredity

Chromosome

Nucleotide

Genome

Vocabulary Strategies

- Word Splash
- Graphic Organizers (Frayer Model, Concept Map, etc.)
- Vocabulary Tree
- List-Group-Label

Motivating Readers: Choice

- Textbook as reference
- Other sources: trade books, journals/magazines, Internet articles, essays, biographies, memoirs, travelogues, historical novels, other related fiction
- Benefits: buy-in/engagement, differentiation, increased comprehension, diverse viewpoints, "big picture"
- Book talks—reviews, excerpt, student recommendation
- Jigsaw groups