



# Expert Reading Strategies

## As we read



**Scan** - Move across a text searching for a specific word/phrase/number.



**Skim** - Read quickly through the sentences getting a gist of the understanding of the text.



**Visualise** - create pictures in your head to help you visualise the scene.



**Think like a detective** - use inference.



Notice meaning breakdown...



...and repair it.



Watch out for VIP words / phrases / ideas...



## Prepare for reading



Use background knowledge and connect to text.



Predict, ask questions, *I wonder...* and read to find out...

## After we read



... and put together to build GIST.



## How do I know when reading breaks down?

- 1 There is a word I don't understand.
- 2 I'm struggling with the book language.
- 3 I have no pictures in my head.
- 4 I am daydreaming. I am thinking about something else.
- 5 I've stopped asking questions or predicting.
- 6 I've not got a summary (gist) of what I've just read.
- 7 This bit I've just read doesn't connect with the last part OR This part contradicts what I've just read.
- 8 I've stopped thinking like a detective.



## 5 repair strategies to try

- 1 Go back 2 or 3 sentences and re-read and collect clues from the words around. Try to connect the hard part to the bit that came before. Use background knowledge and think like a detective.
- 2 Make pictures in your mind and re-read the hard bit. Your mind pictures may make things clear.
- 3 Look at the key words in the sentence to help you understand. The key words will be packed with meaning.
- 4 Read back a bit and read on a bit. Look at keywords, make pictures and think like a detective.
- 5 If it's a single unfamiliar word, ask yourself ...what do I know about it?  
Is it like a word I know?  
Is it a noun, verb or adjective?

**Strategies to help us understand and enjoy reading**