



Levels of Comprehension

Comprehension refers to the ability to listen to or read and understand a text. It involves thinking about and making meaning from print. There are different levels of comprehension (Sadoski, 2004) that children should develop in order to make deeper and fuller sense of a text:

Literal	Understanding what is directly said in the text, e.g., <i>Where did the story take place?, What did the hungry caterpillar eat?</i>
Inferential	Understanding what is implied in the text based on background knowledge along with the words used by the author, e.g., <i>Why is the caterpillar not hungry anymore?</i>
Critical	Evaluating what was read in the text and making judgements about characters, e.g., <i>Is the story real or make believe?, How do you know?</i>
Application	Using the knowledge gained from reading to solve a problem, e.g., <i>If you were to continue the story, what might happen next?</i>
Appreciation	Personalising and becoming part of the story, e.g., <i>Which is your favourite character and why?</i>