

Reading @ Benowa Principles

Meaning, comprehension and understanding do not just 'happen' magically. They require strategies, skills and working habits which students need to use frequently. Without a 'plan' for reading, students can wander aimlessly through the text without discovering the meaning or message behind it.

WHAT READING IS...

Reading is *strategic*

It requires specific strategies and ways of working.

Reading is *active*

It requires effort. You don't just sit back and 'wait' for meaning to come to you – you have to find it.

Reading is *rewarding*

Wide reading gives you a better understanding of yourself, others, the world and the many ideas within it.

Reading improves *writing*

Active reading improves your writing ability by giving you wider vocabulary and a better understanding of grammar.

While students may have different reading abilities and talents, there is a common set of practices which all students can use to become good readers.

WHAT GOOD READERS DO...

Good readers know their *purpose*

Know what you are looking for! Find your purpose (usually the question or task) so that you can actively search for the right information, instead of moving through the text without a goal.

Good readers *ask questions and seek answers*

Active readers ask *themselves* questions – often by writing on the text. For example, if they are unsure of what a word means, they will circle it, write a question mark and what they think it *could* mean. They then re-read the section of the text to find an answer, by looking more closely at the context.

Good readers make *inferences and connections*

An **inference** is any logical conclusion made about the text, usually filling in the gaps of what the author hasn't said clearly. We use clues from the text to arrive at these conclusions.

A **connection** is something the text *reminds us of* – from our lives, other texts, etc.

Good readers often write these on sticky-notes or in the margins of the text they are reading.

Good readers *annotate the text*

Annotating the Text - circling, underlining, highlighting, drawing arrows to connect words (pronouns and the nouns they refer to), writing down synonyms, questions, inferences and connections. **Basically, we are writing down our thinking on the text.** This active reading strategy has a positive influence on comprehension and understanding. *If it's a novel or textbook – you can use pencil and post-it notes.*