



Strategies That Work: Teaching Comprehension for Understanding and Engagement

By Pearson Prof. Growth

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Since its publication in 2000, *Strategies That Work* has become an indispensable resource for teachers who want to explicitly teach thinking strategies so that students become engaged, thoughtful, independent readers. In this revised and expanded edition, Stephanie and Anne have added twenty completely new comprehension lessons, extending the scope of the book and exploring the central role that activating background knowledge plays in understanding. Another major addition is the inclusion of a section on content literacy which describes how to apply comprehension strategies flexibly across the curriculum. The new edition is organized around four sections:

Part I highlights what comprehension is and how to teach it, including the principles that guide practice, a review of recent research, and a new section on assessment. A new chapter, *Tools for Active Literacy: The Nuts and Bolts of Comprehension Instruction*, describes ways to engage students in purposeful talk through interactive read alouds, guided discussion and written response.

Part II contains lessons and practices for teaching comprehension. A new first chapter emphasizes the importance of teaching students to monitor their understanding before focusing on specific strategies. Five lessons on monitoring provide a sound basis for launching comprehension instruction. At the end of each strategy chapter, the authors outline learning goals and ways to assess students' thinking, sharing examples of student work, and offering suggestions for differentiating instruction.

Part III, *Comprehension Across the Curriculum*, is new. Comprehension strategies are essential for content-area reading, where information can be challenging, and presented in unfamiliar formats. This section includes chapters on social studies and science reading, topic study research, textbook reading and the genre of test reading.

Part IV shows that kids need books they can sink their teeth into and the updated

appendix section recommends a rich diet of fiction and nonfiction, short text, kid's magazines, websites and journals that will assist teachers as they plan and design comprehension instruction

Through its focus on instruction that is responsive to kids' interests and learning needs, the first edition of *Strategies That Work* helped transform comprehension instruction for teachers across the country. For them, this new edition will be a welcome extension of that work. Those coming to it for the first time will find a current and essential resource. When readers use these strategies, they enjoy a more complete, thoughtful reading experience. Engagement is the goal. When kids are engaged in their reading they enhance their understanding, acquire knowledge, and learn from and remember what they read. And best yet, they will want to read more!

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Editorial Review

Review

Strategies That Work should be on every English teacher's bookshelf. It is a reader-friendly text that will help all of us to further engage students in the learning process. --English Journal

I reviewed my dog-eared copy of the first edition, and I wondered, 'How can they possibly improve this book?' --Teacher Leaders Network

Strategies That Work is a 'must-read' for beginning or veteran teachers, pre-service teachers, reading specialists, administrators, and parents. --*Education Review*

About the Author

Stephanie Harvey has spent her career teaching and learning about reading and writing. After fifteen years of public school teaching, both in regular education and special education classrooms, Stephanie worked for twelve years as a staff developer for the Denver based Public Education and Business Coalition (PEBC), a partnership of leaders from education and business, who support innovation in public schools. Insatiably curious about student thinking, she is a teacher first and foremost and currently serves as a private literacy consultant to schools and school districts. In that role, she conducts keynote speeches, presentations, workshops, demonstration lessons, coaching sessions and ongoing consultation to teachers, reading specialists, literacy coaches, principals and district administrators. With a focus on K-12 literacy, her specialties include comprehension instruction, inquiry-based learning, content area reading and writing, nonfiction literacy, and the role of passion, wonder and engagement in teaching and learning. Stephanie has written many articles, books and resources; her Heinemann publications include the title *Comprehension and Collaboration* which she co-authored with Smokey Daniels, and *The Comprehension Toolkit* series which is an in-depth Curricular Resource for comprehension instruction co-authored with Anne Goudvis. Click here to read recent Heinemann Blogs from Steph. Connect with Steph at @StephHarvey49 Listen to an interview with Stephanie Harvey on Education Talk Radio - 2/29/2012 (30:35)

Anne Goudvis is the coauthor the Heinemann title *Comprehension Going Forward* and of *Strategies that Work* (with Stephanie Harvey). She and Steph also created best-selling classroom materials through *firstHand: The Comprehension Toolkit*; *The Primary Comprehension Toolkit*; and *Comprehension Interventions*. Anne has been a classroom teacher, staff developer, and university instructor. For the past fifteen years she has worked as a staff developer with the Denver-based Public Education and Business Coalition and currently does staff development in schools around the country. Recent interests include working in schools with culturally and linguistically diverse students and integrating reading comprehension instruction with content area topics in social studies and science.

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