

WHAT is Reciprocal Teaching?



STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING READING COMPREHENSION

Reciprocal teaching was developed by Palincsar and Ann L. Brown for the purpose of helping students improve their understanding when reading. According to Annemarie Sullivan Palincsar, "Reciprocal teaching is best represented as a dialogue between teachers and students in which participants take turns assuming the role of teacher."

Reciprocal teaching is interactive, supported instruction in which the teacher or peer leads a group of students as they talk their way through a text to understand it. As they work together, group members will monitor their understanding by stopping at regular intervals to ask questions, summarize, predict and clarify.

Predict

Tell me what you think will happen next in the text. Why do you think that is so?

Question

What is a question that you could ask about this page? What is the answer? How did you get that answer?

Use the question words who, what, where, when, why, how and what if.

Clarify

Identify a difficult word or concept. How did you figure it out? Give at least two ways.

Summarize

Summarize this paragraph, page, or chapter.

Student Prompts for Reciprocal Teaching

Questioning

- *One question I had about what I read was....*
- *What were you thinking about as you were reading?*
- *What question(s) can you ask about what you read?*
- *I'm curious about...*

Clarifying

- *One of the words I wasn't sure about was...*
- *What other words do we know that we can use in place of...?*
- *What words or ideas need clarifying for you?*
- *This is confusing to me. I need to _____(strategy) to try to figure out this word.*

Predicting

- *I can look at the title and all the visual clues on the page. What do I think we will be reading about?*
- *Thinking about what I have read and discussed, what do I think might happen next?*
- *I wonder...*
- *I predict...*

Summarizing

- *What does the author want me to remember or learn from this passage?*
- *What is the most important information in this passage?*
- *What kind of "teacher" question can I ask about the main idea?*
- *In my own words, this is about ...*
- *The main point was...*
- *The author wanted me to remember...*

A Discussion technique that is built on four strategies that good readers use to comprehend text: prediction, questioning, clarifying and summarizing.

REFERENCE
RECIPROCAL TEACHING AT WORK
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