**Reading Skills Breakdown**

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| **SKILL** | **DESCRIPTION** | **SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS** |
| **Envisioning** | The ability to picture the setting, characters, actions, etc. Readers create a “movie in their mind.” | * What did you see when you read those words? * How does making a picture in your mind about what you’re reading help you understand what you read? * How does the character’s face look when s/he says that? * How did it sound when the character said that? * How do you imagine the character’s body language in this part? |
| **Activating Relevant Prior Knowledge** | Recalling what you know about the genre you are reading and the subject or time in history you are reading about. | * What do you know about reading non-fiction text? * What do you already know about this subject? * What do you know about this time/event in history? |
| **Monitoring for Meaning** | Using strategies to make sure that what you are reading continues to make sense as you go. This includes individual words as well as the ongoing story. | * Did you read the back of the book before you started reading so you have a good idea about how the story will go? * Can you retell the main things that have happened in the story so far? * Are you sure you read that part correctly? Why don’t you reread it? * Does that part make sense? * Why did that just happen? * Can you retell what you just read? |
| **Determining Importance** | Being able to understand the main idea in non-fiction text. Understanding what to pay close attention to in a story. Recognizing the difference between the big ideas and details. | * What is the main idea of this section? * What was the most important thing that happened in this chapter? * What word does the author keep repeating? Why do you think s/he does that? * What are the important things the author is trying to get you to see? * Do you notice any patterns in this story? |
| **Accumulating Text** | Understanding how the different parts of the story fit together. | * How does the part you just read fit with what happened in the last chapter? * Can you draw a story mountain for what’s happened in the book so far? |
| **Predicting** | Being able to anticipate how the story will go and what will happen next as a way to stay focused on the text and maintain appropriate meaning. | * What is your theory about how this book will go? * What do you think will happen next? * What idea does the title give you about how the story will go? * Were your predictions accurate or did the author surprise you? |

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| **Inferring** | Getting an idea that the author gives you clues about, but doesn’t directly tell you. | * What does what the author just described make you think? * What is the character like? What gave you that idea? * How do you think the character feels after what you just read? * What do you think the character meant when s/he said…? |
| **Making Connections and Empathizing** | Relating what you are reading to your own prior experiences | * Has what just happened in the story ever happened to you? * Can you imagine how the character is feeling now? |
| **Questioning** | Asking yourself questions that haven’t been explained in the text. Gives you a purpose when reading on. | * What questions do you have that you expect the author to answer? * Have you found the answers to any of the questions you had previously? * Why did the author include… in the story? |
| **Analyzing** | Breaking a story up into its individual components | * Tell me about the main character. What is s/he like? * What is the main problem in the story? * What does the character want? * Why do you think the character is acting this way? |
| **Synthesizing** | Being able to put pieces of information together to form a bigger idea. | * How did the character change in the story? * What does the author want you to know as you finish this book? * What lesson did the character learn at the end of the story? |