

# Reading Power

Helping Your Children Become  
More Powerful Readers and Thinkers

## A Guide for Parents

“Meaning is constructed in the realm where readers meet the words in the text and consider the ideas in terms of their own experience and knowledge.”

—Stephanie Harvey

### What is Reading Power?

**Reading Power** is a research-based approach to comprehension instruction that we are implementing at \_\_\_\_\_ school. In order for children to develop as proficient readers, they must learn and practice both the strategies of decoding (learning to read the words) and the strategies of thinking (learning to make sense of the words). **Reading Power** is a way of helping students develop important comprehension skills to become more powerful readers and thinkers.

The five comprehension strategies, or reading powers, we are teaching are:

1. **Connect:** What does the story remind me of?
2. **Visualize:** What pictures can I make in my head from this story?
3. **Question:** What am I wondering about this story?
4. **Infer:** What am I thinking about this story that isn't actually written?
5. **Transform:** How has my thinking changed because of this story?

### What are the Key Ideas?

- Learning to read involves two distinct, yet equally important components:
  - Decoding:** the ability to read the words on the page with fluency and accuracy
  - Comprehension:** the ability to construct meaning from the text
- Comprehension strategies need to be **taught directly** and explicitly so that students can understand what thinking looks like and sounds like.
- **Common language** of these thinking strategies is essential for helping students acquire the “language of thinking” across the grades.
- **Metacognition**, or “awareness of thinking,” is an important component of this program
- We have two voices: a **speaking voice** and a **thinking voice**. Good readers pay attention to their **thinking voice** while they read.
- Teachers and parents can **model** their **thinking voice** while they read to and with their children, to help teach and reinforce the strategies

