

Now I Get It! K-5 Comprehension Strategies for Fiction and Nonfiction



Kindergarten			
Fiction	Text Type	Global Comprehension Strategies	Comprehension Teaching Focuses
1. My Vacation	Personal Recount	Making inferences Synthesizing/summarizing	Using illustrations to assist simple inference Understanding that pictures help readers to construct meaning
2. The Running Race	Personal Recount	Making connections to self Making connections to text	Using past experiences and prior knowledge to predict storyline Developing the ability to compare and contrast simple text structures
3. The Unhappy Hippo	Fantasy	Making connections to world Making connections to self	Using picture clues to help predict and construct meaning Formulating responses to author's message based on personal experiences, beliefs, and understandings
4. Wally's Special Place	Fantasy	Making inferences Recognizing text structures	Using knowledge of how the world works to make simple inferences Displaying an understanding of narrative structure
5. The Dreamy Dragon	Fairy Tale	Synthesizing/summarizing Recognizing text structures	Retelling increasingly more complex texts read during read to and shared reading Displaying an understanding of narrative structure (beginning, middle, end)
6. The Prince and the Swallow	Fairy Tale	Answering and generating questions Recognizing text structures	Understanding the importance of asking questions of oneself and the text during read to and shared reading Developing an awareness of different text types by noticing their different structures
7. Tadpole, Tadpole	Poetry (simple rhyme)	Making connections to world Recognizing text structures	Using knowledge of rhyme to predict to the story level Reading small chunks of text in a phrased and fluent manner
8. Where?	Poetry (simple rhyme)	Making inferences Visualizing	Using knowledge of how the world works to make simple inferences Understanding the importance of visualization in order to comprehend text

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Kindergarten			
Nonfiction	Text Type	Global Comprehension Strategies	Comprehension Teaching Focuses
9. My Life So Far: Summers With Grandma	Autobiography	Determining importance Visualizing	Reading small chunks of text as units of meaning (phrasing) Understanding the importance of visualization in order to comprehend text
10. This Is Who I Am	Autobiography	Making connections to world Recognizing text structures	Using prior knowledge, picture clues, and context to predict and check meaning Developing the ability to compare and contrast simple text structures and features
11. Grandparents Day Party	Report	Making connections to self Determining importance	Understanding that good readers make predictions before reading Developing an awareness of the use of labels and diagrams as nonfiction text features
12. Simple Road Signs	Report	Making connections to world Synthesizing/summarizing	Returning to text to justify and confirm predictions Interpreting charts and diagrams when reading nonfiction
13. Planting a Tree	Procedure	Answering and generating questions Determining importance	Understanding the importance of asking questions of oneself and the text during read to and shared reading Reading nonfiction texts to find answers to specific questions or for specific information
14. How to Jump Rope	Procedure	Making connections to self Synthesizing/summarizing	Using picture clues to help predict and construct meaning Linking information gained from more than one text to generate new understandings
15. Blue Is the Best Color	Persuasive	Making connections to self Recognizing text structures	Formulating responses to author's message based on personal experiences, beliefs, and understandings Developing an awareness of different text types, such as persuasive writing
16. My Baby-sitter Is the Best!	Persuasive	Answering and generating questions Determining importance	Understanding the importance of asking questions of oneself and the text during read to and shared reading Reading nonfiction texts to find specific information

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Grade 1

Fiction	Text Type	Global Comprehension Strategies	Comprehension Teaching Focuses
1. Liang's Three Wishes	Fantasy	Making connections to text Recognizing text structures (plot)	Making predictions before reading Tracking plot when reading fiction
2. Time to Fly	Fantasy	Making inferences Visualizing	Using inference with more complex texts Understanding the importance of visualization (mental images) in text comprehension
3. Parade Day	Realistic Fiction	Making connections to self Making connections to self	Relating to a variety of characters in narrative text Responding to author's message based on personal experiences, beliefs, and understandings
4. Race Car	Realistic Fiction	Synthesizing/summarizing Recognizing text structures (characterization)	Retelling more complex texts read in shared reading Tracking characterization when reading fiction
5. How Grandmother Spider Stole the Sun: A Muskogee Tale	Folk Tale	Making inferences Recognizing text structures (beginning, middle, end)	Revealing understandings that are interpretive rather than literal in discussion of texts Understanding narrative structure (beginning, middle, end of story)
6. Paul Bunyan: Folk Hero	Folk Tale	Making connections to text Recognizing text structures	Describing various character traits and making predictions based on those traits Using knowledge of text structure when reading familiar genres, such as tall tales
7. Louise	Poetry (limerick)	Making connections to world Determining importance	Using prior knowledge of rhyme to predict to the story level Reading small chunks of text in a phrased and fluent manner
8. Mosquito	Poetry (limerick)	Making inferences Making connections to text	Using illustrations, text, and knowledge of how the world works to assist with simple inference Comparing and contrasting simple text structures and features.

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Grade 1			
Nonfiction	Text Type	Global Comprehension Strategies	Comprehension Teaching Focuses
9. Hans Christian Andersen: Born Storyteller	Recount Biography	Determining importance Synthesizing/summarizing	Focusing discussion on specific or critical aspects of text Interpreting more complex charts and diagrams in nonfiction
10. Mary Anning	Recount Biography	Making connections to world Determining importance	Using picture clues to confirm or assist predictions Integrating illustrations and diagrams when reading nonfiction
11. Cinco de Mayo	Report	Answering and generating questions Synthesizing/summarizing	Understanding the importance of asking questions of oneself and text Reading nonfiction text to find answers to specific questions or for specific information
12. Backhoe Loader	Report	Making connections to world Recognizing text structures	Returning to the text to justify and confirm predictions Being aware of the use and purpose of labels and diagrams as nonfiction text features
13. Honey Bees and Apple Trees	Explanation	Determining importance Recognizing text structures	Isolating main ideas and supporting details in nonfiction text Using knowledge of text structure when reading familiar genres, such as explanations
14. Recycling Plastic: Wash and Squash	Explanation	Determining importance Recognizing text structures	Maintaining a cohesive train of thought when discussing text Using the organization of text to help construct meaning and read for different purposes
15. The Greatest Invention Ever!	Persuasive	Making connections to self Making connections to text	Skimming text when searching for clues to confirm predictions Using nonfiction text features to establish a sense of content and possible outcomes
16. Eat Breakfast! It's Important!	Persuasive	Making connections to self Asking and generating questions	Formulating responses to author's message based on personal experience, beliefs, and understandings Identifying author's intent or bias and critically evaluating its influence on the reader

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Grade 2

Fiction	Text Type	Global Comprehension Strategies	Comprehension Teaching Focuses
1. Olympic Dreams	Realistic Fiction	Making connections to world Making connections to self	Understanding different points of view, such as that of a character or an observer, and feeling their emotions Formulating responses to author's message based on personal experience, beliefs, and understandings
2. A Town Afloat	Realistic Fiction	Answering and generating questions Visualizing	Understanding importance of asking questions of oneself and text Understanding importance of visualization (mental images) in text comprehension
3. Year 2075: Earth in Danger	Science Fiction	Determining importance Recognizing text structures	Focusing discussion on critical aspects of text Tracking plot when reading fiction
4. The Space-tacular Summer: Creatures From the Sun	Science Fiction	Making connections to text Recognizing text structures	Describing various character traits and making predictions based on those traits Using knowledge of text structure when reading familiar text types
5. The Dog and the Reflection	Fable	Making inferences Recognizing text structures	Using inference on more complex texts Using fiction text features to establish a sense of content and possible outcomes
6. How the Bear Got a Short Tail	Fable	Making inferences Answering and generating questions	Revealing understandings that are interpretive rather than literal Identifying author's intent or bias and critically evaluating its influence
7. Sharing	Poetry (cinquain)	Determining importance Recognizing text structures	Maintaining a cohesive train of thought when discussing text Using the organization of the text to help construct meaning
8. Sisters	Poetry (cinquain)	Making connections to self Making connections to text	Relating to a variety of characters in narrative text Comparing and contrasting various authors

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Grade 2

Nonfiction	Text Type	Global Comprehension Strategies	Comprehension Teaching Focuses
9. My Uncle Louis: A Memoir Remembering the Moon Landing	Recount Memoir	Determining importance Making connections to self	Focusing discussion on specific aspects of the text Formulating responses to author's message based on personal experiences, beliefs, and understandings
10. Sacajawea: The Journey Begins	Recount Memoir	Determining importance Answering and generating questions	Using a range of strategies to construct meaning, even when text is outside personal experience Reading to find answers to specific questions or for specific information
11. All About Elephants: How Big Are Elephants?	Report	Determining importance Recognizing text structures	Skimming text to search for clues to confirm predictions Using nonfiction text features to establish a sense of content and possible outcomes
12. Great Inventions: Inventing the Telephone	Report	Making inferences Synthesizing/summarizing	Maintaining a high-level discussion concerning abstract ideas Integrating illustrations and diagrams when reading nonfiction
13. Where Does the Water Go?	Procedure	Making inferences Recognizing text structures	Using inference on more complex texts Using knowledge of text structures to predict, construct meaning, and read for specific purposes
14. Going to Jake's House	Procedure	Determining importance Making connections to text	Isolating main ideas and supporting details Interpreting more complex diagrams
15. Summer Is Better Than Winter	Persuasive	Making connections to self Synthesizing/summarizing	Providing critical judgments as part of personal response Interpreting charts and diagrams
16. Becky's Allowance	Persuasive	Making connections to self Making connections to self	Formulating responses based on personal experience, beliefs, and understandings Identifying author's intent or bias and critically evaluating its influence



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Grade 3

Fiction	Text Type	Global Comprehension Strategies	Comprehension Teaching Focuses
1. Adventure on the Mississippi	Historical Fiction	Determining importance Visualizing	Using a range of strategies to construct meaning, even when text is outside personal experience Visualizing (using mental images) to comprehend text
2. The Train Ride West	Historical Fiction	Making connections to self Recognizing text structures	Understanding different points of view, such as that of a character or an observer, and feeling their emotions Using knowledge of text structure when reading familiar text types, such as historical fiction
3. Mystery at Turtle Bay	Mystery	Making inferences Recognizing text structures	Using inference on more complex texts Using knowledge of text structure when reading familiar text types, such as mysteries
4. D.P. and the Missing Skateboard	Mystery	Making inferences Recognizing text structures	Describing various character traits and making predictions based on these traits Using organization of various texts to help construct meaning and to read for different purposes
5. How the Kiwi Lost His Wings	Maori Legend	Answering and generating questions Recognizing text structures	Asking questions of oneself and the text when reading Tracking plot and structure when reading fiction
6. Yaponcha, the Wind God	Hopi Legend	Making connections to text Recognizing text structures	Maintaining a high-level discussion concerning abstract ideas within a text Using knowledge of text structure when reading familiar text types, such as legends
7. Porch Light	Poetry (descriptive, non-rhyming)	Making inferences Visualizing	Revealing understandings that are interpretive rather than literal in discussion of texts. Understanding the importance of visualization (mental images) in text comprehension
8. Game Day	Poetry (descriptive, non-rhyming)	Determining importance Making connections to self	Focusing discussion on specific or critical aspects of text Formulating personal responses to the author's message based on personal experience, beliefs, and understandings

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Grade 3

Nonfiction	Text Type	Global Comprehension Strategies	Comprehension Teaching Focuses
9. Sylvia Earle: In Love With the Sea	Recount Biography	Making connections to text Synthesizing/summarizing	Skimming text when searching for clues to confirm predictions Effectively integrating illustrations and diagrams when reading nonfiction
10. Chief Joseph: The Leader of His People	Recount Biography	Asking and generating questions Making connections to self	Using a range of strategies to construct meaning, even when text is outside personal experience Formulating personal responses to the author's message based on personal experience, beliefs, and understandings
11. Photography Through the Years: Daguerreotype	Report	Synthesizing/summarizing Determining Importance	Focusing discussion on specific or critical aspects of text Understanding that reading serves different purposes and requires different strategies, such as scanning for information
12. My Science Fair Project	Report	Making connections to text Determining importance	Using nonfiction text features to establish a sense of content and possible outcomes prior to reading Isolating main ideas and supporting details in nonfiction text
13. Survival Cycles: Black Bears	Explanation	Answering and generating questions Synthesizing/summarizing	Reading nonfiction to find specific information or answers to specific questions Interpreting more complex diagrams in nonfiction texts
14. Growing Rice	Explanation	Determining importance Recognizing text structures	Maintaining a cohesive train of thought when discussing texts Using knowledge of text structures of explanations to predict, construct meaning, and read for specific purposes
15. Music Can Make You Happy	Persuasive	Making connections to world Making connections to self	Maintaining a high-level discussion concerning abstract ideas within a text Identifying intent or bias of author and critically evaluating its influence on the reader
16. World Wildlife Refuges: Why We Need More	Persuasive	Making connections to self Making connections to text	Providing critical judgments as part of personal response Transferring knowledge from one text to another to assist in constructing meaning



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Grade 4

Fiction	Text Type	Global Comprehension Strategies	Comprehension Teaching Focuses
1. The Two Pang Lu's	Realistic Fiction	Making connections to text Synthesizing/summarizing	Relating to text outside of personal experience by making text-to-self connections as a way of constructing meaning Synthesizing or summarizing main ideas, characters, plot, and sequence of fictional text
2. Camping at Cave Creek	Realistic Fiction	Recognizing text structures (characterization) Making inferences	Understanding the complexity of character development Reading in a phrased and fluent manner while showing understanding of the text
3. Riding the Whale	Adventure	Making connections to self and world Recognizing text structures	Making connections to oneself and the world while reading in order to make sense of the text Using structures of various text types to predict, construct meaning, and read for specific purposes
4. Into the Valley of Gold	Adventure	Answering and generating questions Making connections to self	Reading, reflecting, and questioning both oneself and the text while reading continuous text Identifying author's intent, bias, or authorial devices to help form predictions or conclusions in response to text
5. Raven and Owl Give the Gift of Fire	Myth (Eskimo)	Making inferences Determining importance	Connecting to higher-order thinking while maintaining a cohesive train of thought Understanding that reading for specific purposes defines the strategies used by the reader
6. How the Moon and Sun Got Up in the Sky	Myth (Hopi)	Determining importance Synthesizing/summarizing	Returning to the text to justify, confirm, and explore further interpretations of the message Using fiction and nonfiction text features to assist with synthesizing and summarizing the content and outcomes
7. Tadpole	Poetry (diamante)	Making inferences Visualizing	Critically analyzing text to form understandings that are abstract and interpretive Visualizing to assist meaning-making while reading continuous text (fiction or nonfiction)
8. City	Poetry (diamante)	Making inferences Making connections to text	Using inference to develop new or different meanings from those intended by author Comparing and contrasting text structures across two or more text passages to deepen understanding



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Grade 4

Nonfiction	Text Type	Global Comprehension Strategies	Comprehension Teaching Focuses
9. The Berlin Wall Falls	Recount Memoir	Synthesizing/summarizing	Synthesizing information as a way of focusing the discussion and ensuring cohesive thinking
		Making connections to self and world	Drawing on life experiences and knowledge of the world in order to build meaning and/or respond to the author's message
10. Ernest Rutherford Splits the Atom	Recount Memoir	Synthesizing/summarizing	Synthesizing and summarizing main ideas and important elements of nonfiction text
		Recognizing text structures	Interpreting features of nonfiction labels and diagrams
11. The Making of the Grand Canyon	Report	Making connections to self and world	Making connections to self and world while reading in order to make sense of the text
		Making connections to text	Transferring knowledge from one text to another to assist in constructing meaning
12. Staying Warm in an Igloo	Report	Determining importance	Developing research skills that assist in the reading of nonfiction text for the purpose of gaining specific information
		Synthesizing/summarizing	Using fiction and nonfiction text features to assist with synthesizing and summarizing content and outcomes
13. Recipe for Blueberry Pancakes	Procedure	Determining importance	Developing research skills that assist in the reading of nonfiction text for the purpose of gaining specific information
		Recognizing text structures	Using structures of various text types to predict, construct meaning, and read for specific purposes
14. How to Conduct an Opinion Poll or Survey	Procedure	Making inferences	Connecting to higher-order thinking while maintaining a cohesive train of thought
		Determining importance	Understanding that reading for specific purposes defines the strategies used by the reader
15. Homework Is Excellent	Persuasive	Answering and generating questions	Reading, reflecting, and questioning both oneself and the text while reading continuous text
		Making connections to self	Identifying author's intent, bias, or authorial devices to help form predictions or conclusions in response to text
16. Solar-Powered Scooters for All Kids!	Persuasive	Synthesizing/summarizing	Synthesizing and summarizing main ideas and important elements of nonfiction text
		Making connections to self and world	Drawing on life experiences and knowledge of the world in order to built meaning and/or respond to the author's message



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Grade 5

Fiction	Text Type	Global Comprehension Strategies	Comprehension Teaching Focuses
1. The Takeover: Tervalon.com	Science Fiction	Making connections to self and world Recognizing text structures	Making connections to oneself and the world while reading in order to make sense of the text Using structures of various text types to predict, construct meaning, and read for specific purposes
2. Voyage of the Prairie Schooners	Science Fiction	Answering and generating questions Visualizing	Reading, reflecting, and questioning both oneself and text Visualizing to assist meaning-making while reading continuous text (fiction or nonfiction)
3. Camp at Hell Creek, Montana	Historical Fiction	Making inferences Making connections to self	Using inference to develop new or different meanings from those intended by author Identifying author's intent, bias, or authorial devices to help form predictions or conclusions in response to text
4. Otis Washington: Buffalo Soldier	Historical Fiction	Determining importance Synthesizing/summarizing	Returning to the text to justify, confirm, and explore further interpretations of the message Synthesizing or summarizing main ideas, characters, plot, and sequence in fictional text
5. Finn McCool: Mythical Irish Giant	Myth	Making inferences Determining importance	Connecting to higher-order thinking while maintaining a cohesive train of thought Understanding that reading for specific purposes defines the strategies used by the reader
6. The Iroquois Legend of the Peacemakers	Myth	Recognizing text structures Synthesizing/summarizing	Understanding the complexity of character development within narrative text Using fiction and nonfiction text features to assist with synthesizing and summarizing content and outcomes
7. Haiku #1	Poetry (Haiku)	Determining importance Making connections to text	Returning to the text to justify, confirm, and explore further interpretations of the message Comparing and contrasting text structures across two or more text passages to deepen understanding
8. Haiku #2	Poetry (Haiku)	Making inferences Visualizing	Critically analyzing text to form understandings that are abstract and interpretive Visualizing to assist meaning-making while reading continuous text (fiction or nonfiction)

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Grade 5

Nonfiction	Text Type	Global Comprehension Strategies	Comprehension Teaching Focuses
9. Martin Luther King, Jr.: My Life What I Learned from Mohandas Ghandi	Autobiography	Synthesizing/summarizing Making connections to self and world	Synthesizing and summarizing main ideas and important elements of nonfiction text Drawing on life experiences and knowledge of the world in order to built meaning and/or respond to the author's message
10. The Beatrix Potter Story: Animals Were My Playmates	Autobiography	Synthesizing/summarizing Recognizing text structures	Synthesizing information as a way of focusing the discussion and ensuring cohesive thinking Interpreting all features of nonfiction labels and diagrams as part of the synthesizing or summarizing of information
11. Apollo 13: The Successful Failure	Report	Determining importance Making connections to text	Developing research skills that assist in the reading of nonfiction text for the purpose of gaining specific information Transferring knowledge from one text to another to assist in constructing meaning
12. William Dawes: Unsung Hero of the American Revolution	Report	Determining importance Synthesizing/summarizing	Determining critical aspects of text and effectively synthesizing the information Using fiction and nonfiction text features to assist with synthesizing and summarizing of content and outcomes while reading continuous text
13. Dazzling Diamonds	Explanation	Making inferences Recognizing text structures	Connecting to higher-order thinking while maintaining a cohesive train of thought Using structures of various text types to predict, construct meaning, and read for specific purposes
14. The Latest Technology: Typing With Your Voice	Explanation	Synthesizing/summarizing Making connections to self and world	Synthesizing and summarizing main ideas and important elements of nonfiction text Drawing on life experiences and knowledge of the world in order to built meaning and/or respond to the author's message
15. Vote "Yes." Bring Wind Power to Our State!	Persuasive	Making connections to self and world Synthesizing/summarizing	Making connections to oneself and the world while reading in order to make sense of the text Interpreting all features of nonfiction labels and diagrams as part of the synthesizing and summarizing of information
16. Three-day Weekends for Students Under Twelve	Persuasive	Answering and generating questions Making connections to self	Reading, reflecting, and questioning both oneself and the text while reading continuous text Identifying author's intent, bias, or authorial devices to help form predictions or conclusions in response to text

