



To: Parents and teachers of Grade 4 - 6 learners

**Topic: Reading for understanding**

**Message Objectives:** Learners will learn skills that will assist to:

- Improve comprehension
- Recall the main ideas of a topic
- Review topics for exams

**Message:**

Reading is one of the core activities of study. You need to be able to understand what you read and to be able to recall the main ideas when you need them. Here are strategies one can use to improve comprehension, to remember a topic learnt or to review for exams:

- Before you start reading, skim the text to get an overview of the contents.
- Ask yourself:
  - What is this chapter about?
  - What did my teacher say about this chapter/topic?
  - What do I already know about this topic?
  - How does this reading relate to what I already know/ have read?
- Think about specific questions that you would like answered and list them.
- Read the text slowly with focus and concentration
- As you read, look for answers to the questions you listed earlier.
- Make sure you understand what you are reading. Reduce your reading speed for difficult passages. Stop and re-read parts which are not clear.
- If you have difficulty understanding a text, look up difficult words in the dictionary or glossary of terms and re-read.
- Re-read the text and take notes, writing them in your own words.
- Close the book/Cover your notes. Make notes of what you remember about the main idea of the reading.
- Check the accuracy of your understanding against the notes you took earlier.

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N.B Make use of Recovery Annual Teaching Plans and Planners and Trackers available at:  
[www.nect.org.za/materials](http://www.nect.org.za/materials).

Reference:  
<https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/reading-understanding>