



7 Keys to Comprehension: How to Help Your Kids Read It and Get It!

Susan Zimmermann, Chryse Hutchins

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It's simple: If children don't understand what they read, they will never embrace reading. And that limits what they can learn while in school. This fact frightens parents, worries teachers, and ultimately hurts children.

7 Keys to Comprehension is the result of cutting-edge research. It gives parents and teachers—those who aren't *already* using this valuable program—practical, thoughtful advice about the seven simple thinking strategies that proficient readers use:

- Connecting reading to their background knowledge
- Creating sensory images
- Asking questions
- Drawing inferences
- Determining what's important
- Synthesizing ideas
- Solving problems

Easily understood, easily applied, and proven successful, this essential educational tool helps parents and teachers to turn reading into a fun and rewarding adventure.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

7 Keys to Comprehension: How to Help Your Kids Read It and Get It! Details

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From Reader Review 7 Keys to Comprehension: How to Help Your Kids Read It and Get It! for online ebook

Nan says

Ever since Stephen Covey published The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, everyone everywhere has been looking for the 7 somethings to success. The result is usually a book that costs a lot and says very little. This book is no exception. Instead of stating 7 different paths to comprehension, the book states 1 thing over and over and over again -- get involved with your child's learning and model good reading. Its reading lists are great. Its approach is superficial. It assumes a certain "normalness". Its seven keys probably won't unlock comprehension for a child who is learning disabled.

Refine Lubis says

this book is full of tips for teachers and parent who keen to help their kids improve reading comprehension. however i find this book is good for adult too. basically this book emphasize the importance of being an active reader. it suggested to activate our analysis, our visual imagination, asking questions, draw conclusion and relate what we read with our own personal referenced like things we read in the past, movie we watched, places we went, food we ate etc. this book is nicely organized, there is similar section in each chapter that give us a nice structure to go straight to the point of reading. and we can easily go back to read the rest in detail if we need too. every chapter have section on how we can help preschool readers, emerging readers and advancing readers. the section i like the most is crafting session where it give us some activities sample we can do at home or class room. it also has section where it gives us sample of questions that can formulate the skill explained for that particular chapter. in the last chapter there is this section with snoopy comic strip : I READ IT, BUT I DON'T GET iT! basically it says once we lost connection with what we read that means we need to reconfigure back. what are those indication : when we stop having conversation with the text we read, we stop asking question, draw conclusion or predict what might happens. our camera switch off no more visual imagination working. we start to think other things that are not related to the text etc. oh well! i like this book! i don't mind come back and rereading it again and again ...

Michael Brockley says

In 7 Keys to Comprehension, Susan Zimmerman and Chryse Hutchins have written a practical how-to for teachers and parents that provides not only tips on how to use the seven research-based reading comprehension strategies, but also a chapter devoted to repairing comprehension breakdowns.

Natalie says

This went along with our professional development at work. It presents some good ideas and would be a good overview for someone just beginning to teach reading. There are better choices that outline comprehension strategies to teach however.

Choose Debbie Miller's--Reading with Meaning or Stephanie Harvey's--Strategies that work.

I found this book to be more of the same.

Ali says

Great book that reminds us of the components needed to create a successful reader as well as insight into helping these skills become tangible for our young readers.

Connie Kuntz says

Here is another enjoyable book that promotes critical thinking. I get a kick from these books because they help me prepare the kids to work closer with experts, academics, and teams.

By now you have heard about how panicked society gets at the thought of how un-socialized homeschooled kids are. Eeeeek! The horror of it all! I don't really understand what all that fuss is all about, but I do care that my kids will be able to work on teams, and be a part of their communities.

Since I'm here, I'd like to mention that I am all for community, that I am a promoter of niche organizations, but the word society still strikes me as a dirty concept.

The three things that stood out with me from this book are:

- (1) analyzing and promoting sensory images (word pictures)
- (2) inferring (predicting, guessing, staying ahead of the plot)
- (3) synthesis (examining the "change" that takes place when a person reads a book--chemistry)

Being able to discuss and write about these three things will help the kids participate in group thinking later in life.

Since a large portion of reading is invisible, I almost feel it is a huge invasion of my children's privacy to press them for too many details about their reading journeys. But I also want to make sure they can answer an assortment of questions about literature and politics from a variety of people, not just from Jesse and myself. My intention is that promoting this kind of dialogue will help develop active critical thinkers and speakers, as well as team players. This is also the reason we do math problems more than just one way.

Of course, I have no idea what will really happen, but it's good to have a goal.

Here's a funny little thing I have slowly but surely figured out: Reading is not the individual activity I once thought it was. Reading is not just for introverts or people who have a hard time fitting in with society. Quite the opposite. Reading is a team sport. Now that I know how many people it takes to make a book, I will never look at anyone or anything the same, but it's not just the book team (writer, publisher, editor, marketing, proofreaders, etc.) that matters. It's everyone else.

It is hard to say when reading begins and when it ends. Reading doesn't just happen while one's nose is in the book (or e-reader.) Reading happens when you notice someone in a classroom "sneaking" a book in during a

lecture. Reading happens when you crane your neck to see what someone is reading while he is riding the bus. Reading begins when you feel a silent pull toward wanting to know what someone else was experiencing and thinking when he or she was reading. That right there is a proof of a desire to connect to other people. That right there is proof that the appeal of reading isn't the cover, the known author, the topic or title, it's the desire to know what that stranger is thinking, and I do believe that desire is borne from something awesome and pure.

Reading is an important part of the Kuntz Homeschool, just as it is an important part of all households, but what I am focusing on this year is making sure that the reading skills don't just foster individuality, but lead to communicating skills, critical thinking, and team building skills.

I know this is a repetitious review, but the last three books have emphasized the importance of repetition, so I thought I'd experiment.

(Signing off with two signatures today because both reflect how I feel.)

Signed,
Leave Me Alone, I'm Reading
and
How Does This Plot Relate To Affordable Health Care?

Jen says

Note to self: Take away- highlight action words when reading with Luke. The book is probably best suited to higher functioning autistic kids.

Olivia says

This seems like a good pace to start in learning about reading comprehension strategies. I would whole-heartedly recommend it to parents. As a teacher, I love it's clarity. I am interested to compare it with recent research on reading comprehension to see how closely it matches research-proven, high-impact activities and methods in teaching comprehension.

Rhonda says

I read this book for a class on how to help students be better readers. I knew a lot of the information already, but it did contain good tips and ideas as well as an extensive list of material to help children work on each key. I only gave it four stars because of my background. If I was a parent reading it to help my child, it would have been a 5 star book because it was written more for parents without an education background than for teachers. I highly recommend to anyone who wants to help their children become good readers!

Angie Miller says

I highly recommend this book to anyone teaching children to read. It gives simple explanations for a extremely complex skill. The authors give recommendations and ideas on how to help increase areas needed to improve reading skills. I highly recommend this book for anyone that wants to help improve reading comprehension in those they are working with.

Detroitangel says

I've read this twice for a book study through my childrens' school. The teachers adopted these tools and have had a great response.

It is very easy to follow and gives great references for activities.

Brynn says

This is an absolutely excellent book for understanding the basics of reading. Geared towards parents more than teachers, this title still covers the information in a clear, concise manner with specific examples. It also avoids being wordy or using complicated language. The authors make an effort to ensure that most readers will walk away with further knowledge of how kids begin to really read (meaning: comprehend) and what small, manageable things every parent can do to encourage that growth. This is a book I will refer back to frequently.

Amy says

Im reading this to help one of my boys with his comprehension. Excellent thought here on HOW to develop a reader and YES it can be taught. I think it has strengthened my win reading and I'm already using it with the boys. Definitely recommend.

Dawn says

This is one of the best for helping children comprehend and thoroughly enjoy reading! It's a must for teachers and parents. It has the potential to change how you as an adult read and certainly how you share reading with the children in your life. I keep coming back to it again and again!

Tamara says

I think I would like to make copies of the "crafting session" notes, as well as the book list. Good tips, great

examples. This is mostly common sense for good readers, but good readers' children need guidance too. I am sure I can apply lessons from this book to my work at school and reading at home with Nicco.
