Part 11: Reading Comprehension- Synthesising: Discovering the Big Picture
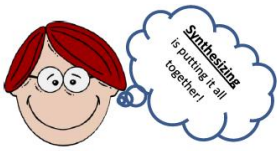
Synthesising involves merging new information with prior knowledge to create new complete ideas, thoughts, perspectives and options.

Synthesis is the most complex and highest form of comprehension.

Synthesising involves combining new ideas with existing information to enable the reader to form conclusions about the text's meaning. It is a similar comprehension micro-skill to summarising, but is more complex. When readers synthesise information, they determine what is significant from their reading and then add their own thoughts and prior knowledge to make a complete idea about what has been read.

As I read . . .
I combine what I already know with new information to create new understanding.
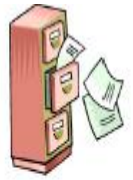
Take the Synthesising Challenge

Synthesis can often result in a product.

- ❖ *Design a machine that would____*
- ❖ *Build a scale model___*
- ❖ *Suggest new and unusual uses for___*
- ❖ *Develop a proposal to____*
- ❖ *Create a new product_____*

Some of the language thinking stems used when synthesizing, includes -

How else could I use this information ...?
How can I use what I have read to create my own ideas?
Has my thinking changed after reading this text?
How else could I use this information...?

Tips to help at home!

- ✓ **Write a fractured fairy tale** – challenge your child to take a well-known fairy tale and change some elements – the characters, plot events, or setting.
- ✓ **Write a multi-genre text** – choose a topic and ask your child to write about this topic using three different genres (poem, recipe, procedure, comic, letter etc). The three different pieces of writing must fit on one page with an illustration.
- ✓ **Jigsaw**– use the backs of an old puzzle, ask your child to write down ideas / facts from a text being read. When the puzzle is completed, discuss their learning.

Focus Questions

- ➢ *How has your thinking changed after reading this passage/text?*
- ➢ *Can you combine new information from the text you have read with your new ideas and form an opinion about what the text is about? Can you defend this?*
- ➢ *What is something you have learned from your reading?*
- ➢ *What would happen if_____?*
- ➢ *What would be an alternative to_____?*