

Visualising

Visualising is a comprehension strategy used by readers to create a visual image of what they have read.

The image created by the reader helps them to understand and remember what they are reading.

Images developed from senses and emotions become movies in the reader's mind. These images change each time a text is read and makes the text come alive.

Competent readers use all five senses, combining the feelings and emotions portrayed by the author to create images continually as they read.

Visualising enables students to learn to use their senses and their imaginations to help make the text alive and vibrant.

Some of the language thinking stems used when visualising includes -

- * In my mind I can see ...*
- * I can imagine*
- * The movie in my head shows ...*
- * I can just taste the*
- * I can feel the ...*
- * I can hear the*
- * I can smell the ...*



Part 5: Reading Comprehension– Visualising: Making a Movie Inside Your Head



Good readers picture what is happening in their mind while they are reading. The pictures readers create in their minds enables them to use prior knowledge and make connections with the story. Readers can form pictures of the settings, characters and develop an understanding what the author is trying to convey. Sensory images created by readers help them to draw conclusions, make predictions, interpret information, remember details, and assist with overall comprehension long after the text has been read.

Readers create mental pictures in their minds that reflect on and represent the text type that is being read. They connect mental pictures to what they know for non-fiction texts and make movie pictures in their mind for fiction texts.

When the reader visualises, they are drawing on the non-verbal knowledge they get from reading. It allows readers to combine written text and visual representation to gain meaning.

Tips to help at home!

- ✓ *Share your own images as you read.*
- ✓ *Turn a book into a comic strip.*
- ✓ *Draw a new book cover for a text and write a title for it.*
- ✓ *Act out a part of the text.*
- ✓ *Build a model for a particular setting in a text.*
- ✓ *Turn a chapter book into a picture book.*

Focus Questions

- *What would you feel, see, and hear if you were the character in this situation?*
- *What do you see in your mind when you read these words?*
- *What image(s) do you have as you read this paragraph?*
- *What words does the author use to help you to picture what's happening?*
- *What do the characters, the setting and the events of the story look like in your mind?*
- *Is the setting described well enough that you can create a picture of it in your mind? Why or why not?*