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Table 1.6: Comprehension-Related Actions

Before Reading	Know why they are reading and set goals for reading.
	Know how they will use the knowledge gained from reading.
	Know many word meanings (vocabulary).
	Know a lot about the world (prior knowledge).
	Preview a text to determine its genre and structure.
	Skim a text to determine which parts to process before reading closely.
During Reading	Recognize words on the page automatically.
	Read text fluently.
	Look for important information (in words or pictures) and pay more attention to it.
	Try to relate important points to one another.
	Use what they already know (prior knowledge) to make predictions.
	Relate new content to prior knowledge.
	Use strategies such as predicting, imaging, questioning, summarizing, clarifying, inferring, and connecting to prior knowledge to construct meaning and interpret the text.
	Remember information from a text using strategies such as reviewing, summarizing, paraphrasing, and questioning.
	Monitor their understanding and the alignment of their understanding to their reading goal or goals.
	Revise their prior knowledge and interpretation of a text as they read.
	Rate the quality of a text and its usefulness for accomplishing the purpose for reading.
	Interact with the text on both personal and intellectual levels as they read.
	Engage in an internal dialogue or responsive conversation with the author of the text.
	• Evaluate the author's purposes, intentions, and goals based on assumptions, worldviews, and beliefs that are overt or covert in a text.
When Comprehension Breaks Down	Become even more active.
	Adjust reading speed and level of concentration depending on the purpose and importance of reading.
	Change comprehension strategies.
	Puzzle out unfamiliar words, phrases, or concepts, especially when they seem important to interpreting the text.
	• Reread or use other strategies to try to regain a hold on the text (such as reviewing, questioning, summarizing, evaluating, or considering alternative interpretations).
After Reading	Continue to build and reflect on their understanding of the text.
	Assess how a text has affected or will affect their knowledge, attitudes, and behavior.
General	Have a repertoire of comprehension strategies and know when and how to use them and combine them.
	Have a repertoire of metacognitive strategies to monitor their reading processes.
	Employ different processes in different ways, and to different degrees, depending on why they are reading and what they are reading, both with respect to disciplinary context and genre.
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Sources: Cho, B.-Y., & Afflerbach, P. (2017). An evolving perspective of constructively responsive reading comprehension strategies in multilayered digital text environments. In S. E. Israel (Ed.), Handbook of research on reading comprehension (2nd ed., pp. 109–134). New York: Guilford Press; Purcell-Gates, V., Duke, N., & Stouffer, J. (2016). Teaching literacy: Reading. In D. H. Gitomer & C. A. Bell (Eds.), Handbook of research on teaching (5th ed., pp. 1217–1267). Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association; Wharton-McDonald, R., & Erickson, J. (2017). Reading comprehension in the middle grades: Characteristics, challenges, and effective supports. In S. E. Israel (Ed.), Handbook of research on reading comprehension (2nd ed., pp. 353–376). New York: Guilford Press.