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2.9 Read with a Purpose in Mind

Strategy Look at the text in front of you and think about your purpose for reading it: To learn information? To be entertained? To practice a goal such as reading with fluency? Jot a note to yourself, tell your purpose to a friend, or check your personal reminders such as your goal bookmark. Read with that purpose in mind.

Teaching Tip Do you frequently revisit and reread texts with your students? Some teachers, for example, engage children in shared reading lessons where they are guided to reread for different purposes each day. In that case, a brief menu of options based on what you do in whole-class or small-group shared reading lessons can encourage children to do this independently, with their self-selected books. For example, a first reading might be to practice decoding any unfamiliar words, then a second reading could be to work on fluency, then a third reading could be one where they practice retelling. Another best practice is for children to have individual goals based on assessment and goal-setting conversations; you may set children up with their own individualized menu of strategies they've learned that are aligned to their current goal.

Prompts

- Remind yourself of your goal. What will you practice as you read today?
- What will you try to do as a reader today?
- What are your plans for your reading time today?
- Jot a note to yourself so you remember what your focus will be during reading today.



Skills

- planning
- attentional focus

Progression

Chooses appropriate texts and is ready to start identifying a purpose or making a plan for reading time.



Research Link

Based on a review of both classic and more recent studies, Cartwright (2015) concludes that "skilled comprehenders approach texts with particular goals for reading, or a plan to understand the texts in a certain way for a particular purpose" (p. 40) and recommends teaching readers to make plans and keep strategies to accomplish goals in mind and apply them actively as they read.