

What Makes Reading Easier?

- ✓ **THE TEXT** is shorter rather than longer.
- ✓ **THE READER** has chosen the text, versus it being assigned.
- ✓ **THE READER** has relevant background knowledge.
- ✓ **THE TOPIC** has personal interest or importance.
- ✓ **THE TEXT** embodies familiar settings and cultural values.
- ✓ **THE TEXT** evokes curiosity, surprise, or puzzlement.
- ✓ **THE TEXT** has high coherence, meaning that it explains itself (e.g., “the plesiosaur, a Mesozoic period dinosaur . . .”).
- ✓ **THE TEXT** makes ample use of pictures, charts, and other visual and text features that support and add meaning.
- ✓ **THE TEACHER** evokes and builds the reader’s background knowledge.
- ✓ **THE TEACHER** teaches specific strategies for visualizing, inferring, questioning, rereading, and other techniques.
- ✓ **READERS CAN** mark, write, or draw on text as they read.
- ✓ **READERS CAN** talk about the text during and after reading.
- ✓ **READERS CAN** hear text read aloud by the teacher, by a classmate, or in a small group.