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.