

***Schema Strategies
and Reading
Comprehension***

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What to Expect



This study:

- Various types of comprehenders based on the concept of schema theory.
- Know how students think
- Opened our eyes (as teachers)
what are students doing as they are reading?

What to Expect



Visible learning.....

- The teacher could see and hear how the students were learning
- The children's thinking became visible:
 - *Think-alouds*
 - *Analysis of responses*

(John Hattie, 2009)

Outline of Presentation



1. Schema Theory
2. Schema Strategies
 - Comprehension
 - Inferences
 - Reading Comprehension
 - Learning
3. Previous Research
4. Current Research- Results
5. Examples of Varied Comprehenders
6. And so what....?
7. Implications for Instruction

SCHEMA THEORY



Schema Theory



In Essence:

Schema Theory is a theory about

KNOWLEDGE

Representation of knowledge

The use of this knowledge within the structure of the mind.

(Anderson & Pearson, 1984)

Schema Theory



Totality of >>>>>

*Experiences,
Knowledge,
Emotions, and
Understanding,
which effects **What and How** we learn*

(Anderson & Pearson, 1984)

Schema Theory



A framework
for interpreting
one's world

A continuous
process that
occurs in
several domains

Acquisition of
learning

Schema Theory



Formative Research

Bartlett/Kant 1929,1932:

Interpretation of the world occurs within organized structures or schemas. Schemata mediated between external world and internal mental structures.

Piaget & Inhelder, 1969

Cognitive Structures that underlie intelligence and change/adapt to the environment: assimilation and accommodation

Bruner, 1979

Constructing new meaning and knowledge from authentic experiences

Schema Theory



Rumelhart, 1980, pp. 33-34

“ ... building blocks of cognition. They are the fundamental elements upon which all information processing depends. Schemata are employed in the process of interpreting sensory data (both linguistic and non linguistic). . . ”

Schema Theory



Rumelhart, 1980, pp. 33-34

in **RETRIEVING** information from memory,

in **ORGANIZING** actions,

in **DETERMINING** goals and sub goals,

in **ALLOCATING** resources, and

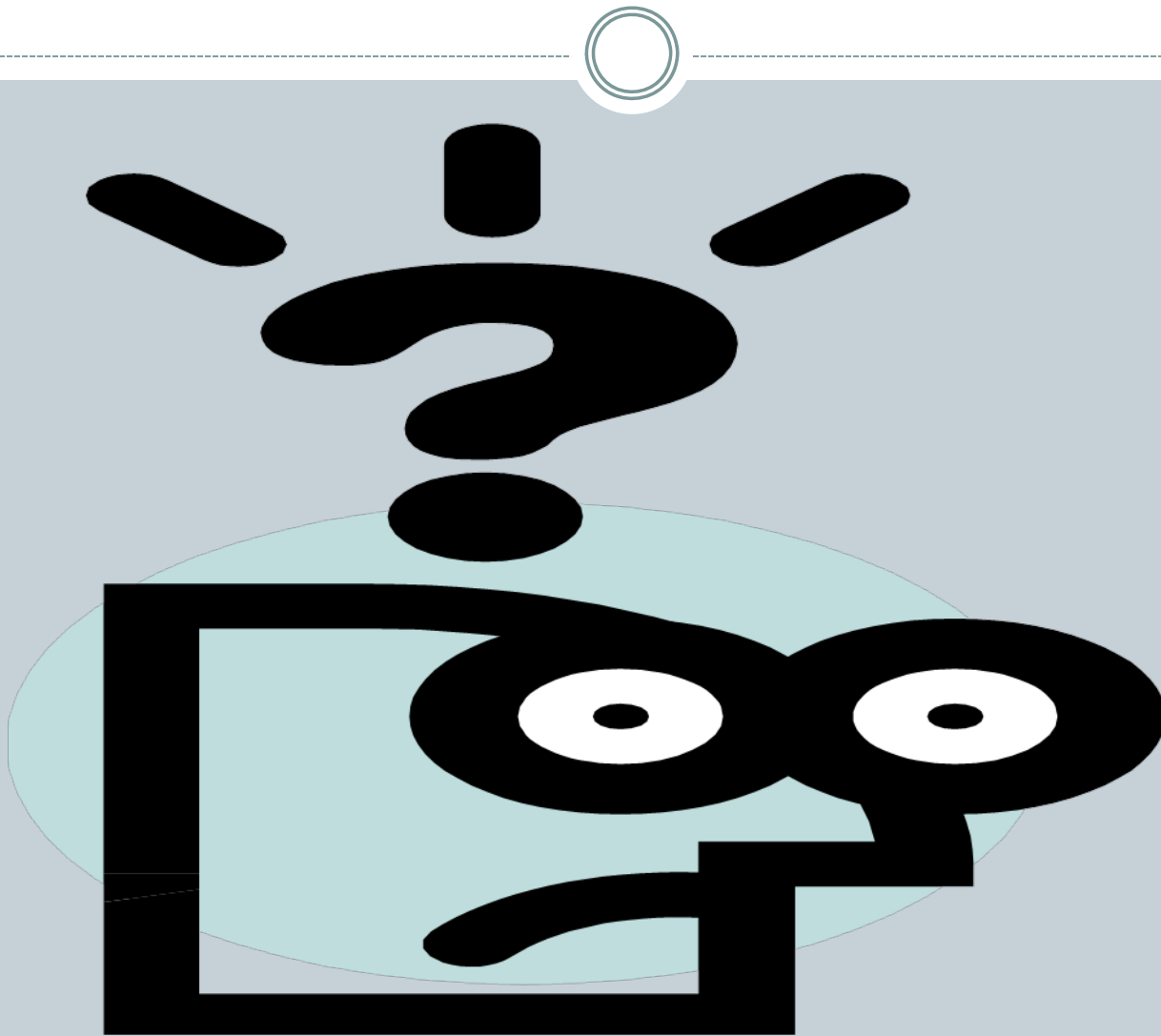
generally,

in guiding the ***FLOW OF PROCESSING*** in the system”.

SCHEMA STRATEGIES



What are Schema Strategies?



What are Schema Strategies?



SCHEMATA :

*have **VARIABLES***

*can **EMBED ONE WITHIN ANOTHER***

*represent **KNOWLEDGE**
ENCYCLOPEDIA*

(Rumelhart & Ortony, 1977)

What are Schema Strategies?



Schema and Comprehension

Schema and Inference

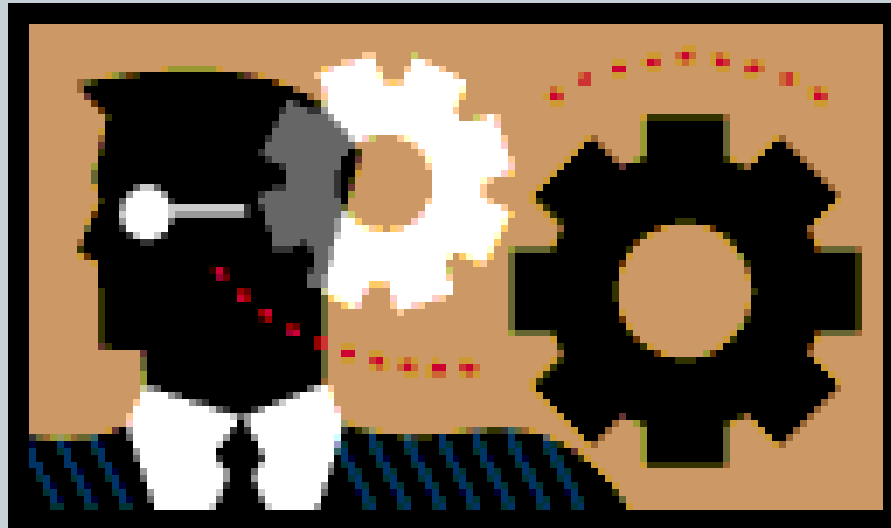
Schema and Reading Comprehension

Schema and Learning

Schema and Comprehension



Information Processing System



Schema Selection

Schema Interpretation

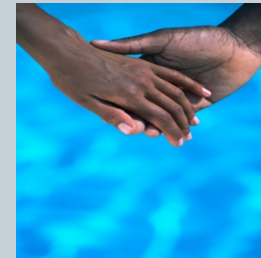
Schema and Inference



Unobserved Input



Notion of Parts to Whole



Assigning default values



Schema and Reading Comprehension



Equation of Schema and Reading Comprehension

Accesses Appropriate Schema = Good Comprehension

Accesses Appropriate Schema – **insufficient clues** =
Inadequate Comprehension

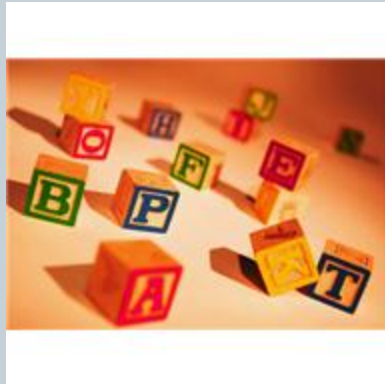
Accesses Schema (**inconsistent with author's intent**) =
Understanding of Passage+ Misunderstanding of Author's
Intent (Rumelhart, 1980)

Schema and Learning



Three Modes of Learning

Accretion



Schema and Learning



Three Modes of Learning

Tuning

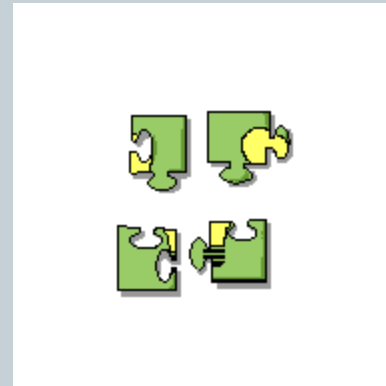
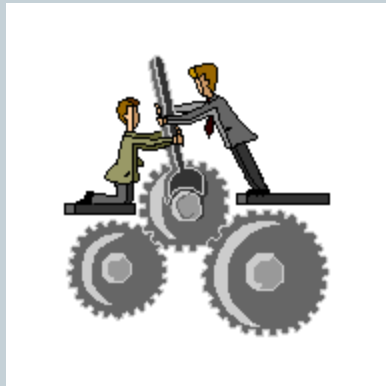


Schema and Learning



Three Modes of Learning

Restructuring



PREVIOUS RESEARCH



Previous Research



Activation and Construction of Schema

Rumelhart (1984)

After reading 2-3 sentences in a paragraph.....

Presented adults with the following questions:

WHO . . . were the characters

WHAT . . . they perceived was happening

WHY . . . characters acted as they did

WHEN . . . the event occurred

WHERE . . . the story took place

Previous Research



Business had been slow since the oil crisis

Nobody seemed to want anything really elegant anymore

Suddenly the door opened and a well-dressed man entered the showroom floor. John put on his friendliest and most sincere expression and walked toward the man.

Rumelhart, 1984, p. 6

Previous Research



Activation and Construction of Schema Rumelhart (1984)

Agreement among participants:

- inherent outline of the story
- participants activated, evaluated, refined, discarded
- consistent patterns of hypothesis generating

Previous Research



Wade (1990)

Investigated children's use of varied schema strategies in reading comprehension

Results indicated varied types of comprehenders

Previous Research



Wade (1990)

Children reported their insights by responding to two questions:

what do you think this is about
what clues in the story helped you

Responses: categorized according to similarities in cognitive processing

Previous Research



Good Comprehender – generates hypotheses, tunes, monitors incoming information

Non-risk taker – lacks the ability to select appropriate schema

Non-integrator – new schema is generated for every sentence read

Schema imposer – keeps same schema (no “fix-up” strategies)

Storyteller – relates prior knowledge that does not relate to the text

(Wade, 1990)

CURRENT RESEARCH



Current Research



Sample

81 Fourth-graders

32 Third-graders

Fourth Grade	Below-Average below 25%*	Average 25 – 75%*	Above-Average Above 75%*
Third Grade		Average 25 – 75%	

*performance level based on the ITBS Reading Comprehension subtest

Current Research



Think–alouds: read three short story passages out-loud . After every one or two sentences in each passage, ask the probing questions.

Code according to Wade’s (1990) five types of comprehenders plus three more types of comprehenders (*Descriptors of Comprehender Types*)

Record data on the *Schema Coding Form*

Current Research



Probing Questions and Procedure

➤ **Stage One: Initial Questions**

What do you think this is about?

What clues in the story helped you? or What information led you to think that?

➤ **Stage Two: Probing Questions**

- Participant Response in Stage One: “I don’t know”

Can you give me any guesses?

Can you describe what is happening?

Can you tell me anything else?

- Participant Response in Stage One: Change and/or Tuning of Schema

What made you change your mind?

What information in the story made you change your mind?

➤ **Retelling**

Current Research



Additional Types of Comprehenders

Schema omitter – tuning and relates text content with background knowledge, but does not activate a particular schema

Non-integrator: limited tuning – new schema is generated for every segment read with minimal use of tuning

Restater – paraphrases, no activation of schema

Current Research



Wade (1990)

Gutkind (2012)

Good Comprehender	Non-risk Taker	Non-Integrator	Schema Imposer	Storyteller	<i>Schema Omitter</i>	<i>Non-Integrator: Limited Tuning</i>	<i>Restater</i>
Hypothesizes Monitors	"I don't Know	Non- connective clues	Keeps initial schema	Exclusive prior knowledge	Uses tuning No hypothesis	Some use of tuning New schema for every segment of text	Paraphrases

Good Comprehender	Medium Comprehender	Inefficient Comprehender
Use of tuning and/or restructuring	Beginning to retune away from inefficient strategizing	Multiple inefficient strategizing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schema Omitter • Non-integrator: Limited Tuning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-integrator • Restater • Schema Imposer • Non-risk Taker • Story teller

Results

Percentage of Comprehender Types for Group 1 across three Stories

Type of Comprehenders	Story 1		Story 2		Story 3	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Good Comprehender	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Medium Comprehender	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Inefficient Comprehender	9	69.2	9	69.2	11	84.6
Mixed (Inefficient Comprehender/ Good Comprehender)	4	30.8	4	30.8	2	15.4

n = 13

Frequency Table of Schema Strategy Use of Group 1 across three Stories

Categories	Story 1		Story 2		Story 3	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Good Comprehender	10	19.2	10	19.2	9	11.5
Schema Omitter	1	1.9	0	0.0	1	1.3
Non-Integrator: Limited Tuning	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Restater	14	26.9	10	19.2	18	23.1
Non-Risk Taker	3	5.8	7	13.5	23	29.5
Schema Imposer	8	15.4	0	0.0	4	5.1
Non-Integrator	14	26.9	22	42.3	22	28.2
Storyteller	2	3.8	3	5.8	1	11.3
Total <i>n</i>	52		52		78	

Results

Percentage of Comprehender Types for Groups 2, 3 and Third Grade across Three Stories

Type of Comprehenders	Story 1			Story 2			Story 3		
	Group 2 <i>n</i> %	Group 3 <i>n</i> %	3 rd Grade <i>n</i> %	Group 2 <i>n</i> %	Group 3 <i>n</i> %	3 rd Grade <i>n</i> %	Group 2 <i>n</i> %	Group 3 <i>n</i> %	3 rd Grade <i>n</i> %
Good Comprehender	14 34.1	14 51.9	4 21.1	13 31.7	14 51.9	3 15.8	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0
Medium Comprehender	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	3 7.3	3 11.1	1 5.3
Inefficient Comprehender	19 46.3	7 25.9	13 68.4	18 43.9	4 14.8	12 66.7	35 85.4	15 55.6	14 73.7
Mixed (Inefficient Comprehender/ Good Comprehender)	8 19.5	6 22.2	2 10.5	10 24.4	9 33.3	3 15.8	3 7.3	9 33.3	2 10.5

Results

Frequency Table of Schema Strategy Use of Groups 2, 3 and Third-Graders across Three Stories

Categories	Story 1						Story 2						Story 3					
	Group 2		Group 3		3 rd Grade		Group 2		Group 3		3 rd Grade		Group2		Group 3		3 rd Grade	
	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>%</u>
Good Comprehender	70	42.7	67	62.0	25	32.9	74	45.1	69	63.9	21	27.6	32	13.0	42	25.9	16	14.4
Schema Omitter	2	1.2	4	3.7	0	0.0	2	1.2	5	4.6	1	1.3	17	6.9	13	8.0	5	5.4
Non-Integrator: Limited Tuning	4	2.4	1	.9	3	3.9	5	3.0	1	.9	2	2.6	6	2.4	4	2.5	9	8.1
Restater	26	15.9	7	6.5	20	26.3	6	3.7	2	1.9	7	9.2	14	5.7	2	1.2	12	10.8
Non-Risk Taker	2	1.2	2	1.9	0	0.0	8	4.9	2	1.9	3	3.9	47	19.1	33	20.4	23	20.7
Schema Imposer	20	12.2	8	7.4	11	14.5	10	6.1	5	4.6	7	9.2	25	10.2	23	14.2	6	5.4
Non-Integrator	33	20.3	18	16.6	11	14.5	57	34.8	23	21.1	25	32.9	104	42.3	45	27.8	36	32.4
Storyteller	7	4.3	1	.9	6	7.9	2	1.2	1	.9	10	13.2	1	.4	0	0.0	6	5.4
Total <i>n</i>	164		108		76		164		109		76		246		162		111	

Current Study - Restructuring Strategies



Group 1 below- average	Group 2 average	Group 3 above -average	Third-Graders average
0 participants	3 participants	5 participants	2 participants

Results



Statistically Significance

**Groups 1, 2, and 3 across all three stories in
comprehender types and patterning types**

Results



Fourth-Graders with Reading Difficulties

- Difficulty with making coherent representation of text
- Difficulty with making cross-sentence connections
- Selected partial information from the text
- Did not always assimilate new information to modify existing schema
- Missing the intent of the segment or sentence
- Overall difficulty with efficient strategy processing

Results



Average and Above Average Fourth-Graders

- Demonstrated more efficient strategy use than the below average fourth-graders
- Difficulty with making cross-sentence connections for coherent representation of text (*about **one-half** of average fourth-graders and approximately **one-quarter** of the above-average fourth-graders*)

Results



Third-Graders

- Demonstrated more efficient strategy use than the below-average fourth-graders.
- Difficulty with making cross-sentence connections for coherent representation of text

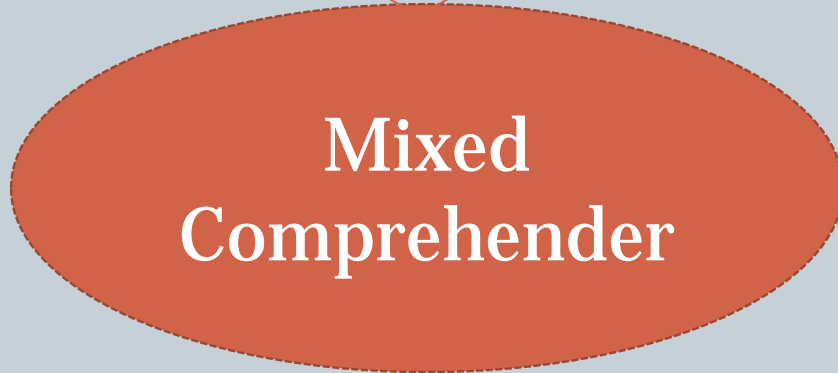
Results



Good
Comprehender

Inefficient
Comprehender

Mixed
Comprehender



Descriptors for Scoring Types of Comprehenders

Types of Comprehenders	Descriptors		
	Hypothesis	Text Information	Understanding Meaning
Good Comprehender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Generates hypothesis -Supports hypothesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Uses information from text -Relates text content with background knowledge -Integrates new activated schema -Monitors info that conflicts with generated schema by tuning or creating a new schema 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Recognizes point of story
*Schema Omitter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Does not generate hypothesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Uses information from the text -Relates text content with background knowledge -Integrated new information with activated schema -Monitors info that conflicts with generated schema but does not create a new schema 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sometimes recognizes the point of the story
Non-integrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Generates new hypothesis for every segment of the text -Never relates new hypothesis to previous hypothesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Uses selected info from the text -Fragmented/disconnected relation of text content with background knowledge -Disregards info that conflicts with the schema of the moment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Does not recognize point of the story

*Non-integrator: Limited Tuning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Generates new hypothesis for every segment of the text -Relates new hypothesis to selected segments of previous hypothesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Uses selected information from the text -Fragmented/disconnected relation of text content with background knowledge -Disregards information that conflicts with the schema of the moments 	-Does not recognize point of the story
*Restater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Does not generated hypothesis -Does not synthesis information to create a hypothesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Restates and/or paraphrases information from the text 	-Does not recognize point of the story
Schema Imposer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Generates initial hypothesis without option for alternative hypothesis -Supports only the initial hypothesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Uses selected information from text that matches the initial hypothesis -Partial relation of text content with background knowledge -Disregards information that conflicts with initial activated schema 	-Does not recognize point of the story
Non-risk taker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Does not generate hypothesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Uses minimal information from the text 	-Does not recognize point of the story
Storyteller	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Generates hypothesis non-related to text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Does not use information from text 	-Does not recognize point of the story

EXAMPLES OF VARIED COMPREHENDERS



Examples

Varied Types of Comprehenders



I am large and very heavy

- *bulldozer*

I am gray

- *bulldozer, 'cause some bulldozers can be gray*

I have a trunk that you can't pack

- *a bulldozer has a digger, so that can be a trunk*

You can see me at the circus

- *there are bulldozers in the circus*

Examples

Varied Types of Comprehenders



I am the color of a carrot

- *tangerine*

Find seeds inside of me

- *tangerine*

I am the size and shape of a baseball

- *well, a tangerine is smaller than a baseball, so I think it is an orange*

Squeeze me to make juice

- *an orange*

Examples

Varied Types of Comprehenders



I am round

- *ball*

I am many colors, but mostly blue

- *the ocean or sea*

Use me at home or at school

- *a notebook*

Spin me to see the whole world

- *playing pin the donkey on the tail*

Examples

Varied Types of Comprehenders



I have doors, but rarely have windows.

- *office building*

Several people can ride in me at once

- *Well, you can't ride in an office building, so I will say a van*

Call for me by pushing a button

- *Well you don't call for someone in a van, but you need to push a button when you ring a doorbell and it says it has doors in the first clue, so it's a door bell.*

I go up and down in tall buildings.

- *It says tall buildings, so I guess it is an office building*

Examples

Varied Types of Comprehenders



I have a large head

- *Well, it could be an animal or a person, or an insect; not sure*

I live in an ocean

- *Well it is something that lives in the ocean and has a large head –maybe some kind of fish or maybe a plant*

I have eight legs.

- *I know it is some kind of fish, but I don't know which kind*

Examples

Varied Types of Comprehenders



I have keys, but no locks.

- *It doesn't have any locks*

I have pedals, but don't move

- *It can't move because it has pedals*

I make noise when you touch me.

- *It can make noise*

Touch my keys to make music

- *It makes music when you touch it*

Examples

Varied Types of Comprehenders



You can see me, but can't hold me

- *It's about when a baby feels you can't hold him, but the baby still sees the mommy.*

I follow you everywhere

- *The baby follows the mommy everywhere because he wants mommy*

See me when the sun shines

- *One day, the mommy took the baby outside to see the sun shinning*

I am long in the morning and evening, but short at noon

- *Mommy takes the baby for long walks*

Examples

Varied Types of Comprehenders



We are white and yellow.

- *a balloon, no...I don't know*

We are only kernels- not generals

- *I don't know*

We burst out of our shells when we get how.

- *..don't know*

Eat us by the handful at the movies

- *Oh..., maybe it is ?....., no.....I don't know*

Practice with a Partner



1. CHOOSE ONE STORY

2. ROLE PLAY WITH A PARTNER

3. CODE YOUR RESULTS

Responses from Story 1



- **Text:** *When you gain speed, the grown-up will run alongside of you and still hold on.*

Researcher: *“So now tell me what do you think this story is about?”*

- *Schema Omitter Response:* *“A motorcycle, or a car...it can't be a motorcycle, it can't because you can't run that fast. (It's) about a guy who is on something, I can't figure out what, but he's on something and he has to be helped by a grown up.”*
- *Non-integrator Response:* *“The story is about when a car is about to hit him so he holds onto his hand.”*
- *Restater Response:* *“Gaining Speed.”*
- *Schema Imposer Response:* *(Previous responses were about rollerblading) “That a person who is saying that a grown up helps him and that like he's on rollerblades and when he gains speeds, he runs.”*

Responses from Story 1



- **Text:** *The first thing you will want to do is find a grown-up to help you out. Have the grown-up hold on tight so that everything is steady while you climb on*

Researcher: “*What do you think this story is about?*”

- *Good Comprehender Response:* “*A boy who wants to climb a tree.*”
- **Researcher:** “*What clues made you think climb a tree?*”
- *Good Comprehender Response:* “*It said to hold on tight so maybe he can climb.*”
- *Storyteller Response:* “*A babysitter, the children - that the children’s parents are going out.*”

Researcher: “*What clues in this story made you think it’s a babysitter?*”

- *Storyteller Response:* “*Getting into trouble.*”

Responses from Story 2



Text: *It seems to be dead, but inside something wonderful is*

- *happening. After a brief struggle, a body with folded wings breaks out of the silken shell.*
- **Researcher:** *“What do you think it’s talking about?”*
- **Good Comprehender Response:** *“Now it became a butterfly...well actually it might be a caterpillar. I’ll say a caterpillar because caterpillars have big long cocoon and becomes butterflies.”* (Explanation: the student is using the information to tune or change his current activated schema).
- **Non-integrator Response:** *“An animal is having a baby”*
- **Researcher:** *“What clues made you think that?”*
- **Non-integrator Response:** *“Breaking out.”* (Explanation: the student generated a schema based on one clue in the story).
- **Schema Imposer Response:** *“A bat.”* (Explanation: participant’s first activated schema was about a bat. He maintained this schema for half of the story).
- **Restater Response:** *“You think that something is bad, but really it’s good.”*
- **Researcher:** *“What clues made you think that?”*
- **Restater Response:** *“Because it seems to be dead, but something wonderful is happening.”*

Responses from Story 3



- Text:** *Sometimes it can turn black or brown when it mixes with mud and dirt. Sometimes it looks light and delicate.*
- **Researcher:** “*What do you think it’s about?*”
 - **Good Comprehender Response:** “*Snow being mixed with mud and dirt, and then it gets all black.*”
 - **Non-integrator Response:** “*I think it’s a pig.*”
 - **Researcher:** “*What made you think it was a pig?*”
 - **Non-integrator Response:** “*Turning black and brown when it plays in mud and pigs like to play in the mud.*” (Explanation: did not include previous clues about color).
 - **Restater Response:** “*When it mixes, when mud and dirt mix up and then it becomes very delicate.*”
 - **Schema Imposer Response:** “*... maybe it’s still a firefly*”. (Explanation: participant’s first activated schema was about a firefly).

Restructuring Responses from Story 3



Researcher: *“Okay, now tell me in your own words what this whole story is about.”*

- *Participant #32:* “It’s talking about snow.”

Researcher: *“What clues made you think that it was snow?”*

- *Participant #32:* “Because it can turn black or brown when it mixes with mud and dirt. Sometimes it looks light and delicate ... and a cubic foot of it can weigh only six pounds, but when it is compressed, it can weigh 30 pounds, when it is squished together.”
- *Participant #45:* “Snow”

Researcher: *“What clues made you think it’s about snow?”*

- *Participant #45:* “Colorless...it can turn black or brown...it can weigh six pounds when it’s less and ten pounds when its more. It’s an insulator. When you put a thermometer in it, it gets colder (warmer).”
- *Participant #62:* “Snow and what it could turn into and it could get very big and powerful and it’s one of nature’s best insulators and that’s it’s kind of a science experiment of it.”

Explanation: During the think-aloud, each of the above participants demonstrated a lack of knowledge regarding certain facts pertaining to snow. At the retelling, they were able to reconstruct a new “snow” schema that incorporated these additional facts (insulator, weight, etc.).

?



... and so what?



Validation

Importance of using schema strategizing

Regardless of students' reading comprehension levels . . . *Need for teaching...*

Schema Strategizing . . .



... and so what?



Metacognitive Strategies

Relevant vs. Irrelevant

Cross-Sentence Connections

Schema Self-Awareness (*accretion*)

Verbalizing Students' Schemata (tuning & restructuring)

Implications for Instruction



Implications for Instruction



Pictorial Presentation

Concretizes changes in schema



(based on *Visualizing/Verbalizing Bell, 1991*)

Implications for Instruction



Changes in Vocabulary

Teaches relevant vs. irrelevant

*It was the **best** of times.....*

- what schemata are activated?

*It was the **worst** of times.....*

-what schemata are activated now

-how are these two schemata different?

-how are these two schemata the same?

Implications for Instruction



Relevant vs. Irrelevant Information

- *The house was **dark, and eerie.***
what schemata are activated?
- *The house was **bright and cheery.***
what schemata are activated?
how did my schema change (tuning)

Implications for Instruction



- *The **wind howled through the cracks** in the windows.*

what schemata are activated?

- *A **soft breeze flowed through the open** windows*

what schemata are activated?

how did my schema change (tuning)

Implications for Instruction



Cross- Sentence Connections

Which sentences create a theme or a cohesive picture in your mind's eye (cohesive representation of printed text)



Implications for Instruction



Riddles

We are **white** and **yellow**

❖ *what schemata are activated?*

(accretion)

❖ *what are the key clues?*

(relevant vs. irrelevant)

Implications for Instruction



*We are only **kernel**s*

- ❖ *does our schema change?*
(tuning)
- ❖ *what clues changed our previous schema?*
(relevant vs. irrelevant)
- ❖ *what clues maintained our previous schema?*
(relevant vs. irrelevant)
- ❖ *are all the clues connected?*
(cohesive representation of text)

Implications for Instruction



We *burst* out of our *shells*
when we get hot

does our schema change?

(tuning)

what clues changed our previous schema?

(tuning; relevant vs. irrelevant)

what clues maintained our previous schema?

(relevant vs. irrelevant)

are all the clues connected?

(cohesive representation of printed text)

We need to make learning . . .



Visible !



