

**Comprehension** – “the process of simultaneously extracting and constructing meaning through interaction and involvement with written language. It consists of three elements: the reader, the text, and the activity or purpose for reading” (RAND Reading Study Group, 2002, p.11).

## **Scaffolding Reading Comprehension in the Elementary Grades**

The amount and type of scaffolding is dependent upon the reader, the text, and the activity or purpose for reading.

### **Before Reading**

- Teach the pronunciation of difficult to read words.
- Teach the meaning of critical, unknown vocabulary words.
- Teach or activate any necessary background knowledge.
- Preview the story or the article.

### **During Reading**

- Utilize passage reading procedures that provide adequate reading practice.
- Ask appropriate questions during passage reading.
- Teach strategies that can be applied to passage reading.
- Use graphic organizers to enhance comprehension. (In some cases, use after passage reading.)

### **After Reading**

- Provide intentional fluency building practice.
- Engage students in a discussion.
- Have students answer written questions.
- Provide engaging vocabulary practice.
- Have students write summaries of what they have read.

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