

SharpReading Stage 3: UNIT 2

Here are our Answers

1. What do we mean by “First you must be a fluent decoder”?

Decoding fluency is an important prerequisite to Stages 3-6 comprehension instruction. Word recognition needs to be automatic so that the working memory is not clogged by decoding requirements and is free to engage in deep processing of the message in the text (comprehension).

2. Catherine Snow summarises reading comprehension as two actions that occur in the brain. What are they?

Extract the ideas (often phrases) from the sentence and then put them together (construct the meaning).

3. What are the 5 strands of the language comprehension rope?

Background Knowledge, Vocabulary, Language Structures, Verbal Reasoning, Literacy Knowledge.

4. What do we mean by ‘The band gets better by playing together’?

Some explicit teaching of the language comprehension strands is useful, but the research suggests that the best way to develop the flexible use of these skills is to practise them in a meaningful context - unpacking sentences.

5. What is ‘The Idea Grab’?

This occurs when the reader is unaware of the requirement to attend to ALL the information in a sentence (the passive reader) or is overwhelmed by the flow-on effect of all those words.

As a result, they just grab something (anything) from the sentence and end up with a weak situation model.

6. What do we mean by ‘In-the-moment Comprehension’?

In-the-moment Comprehension occurs automatically in the head of the reader as a result of the interaction of the language strands.

7. What do we mean by ‘Stop-and-think-about-it Comprehension’?

Stop-and-think-about-it comprehension refers to deliberate, metacognitive actions that the reader can take to solve comprehension difficulties that arise or to deepen understanding.

8. What is the main focus of Stage 3?

Developing ‘In-the-moment’ comprehension skills before moving on to strategies.

9. Why do we ask students to verbalise their thinking while unpacking sentences?

It forces the reader to clarify the thoughts that have been triggered by the words. It helps to develop an active reading habit.
