

Schema

A Reading Comprehension Strategy

Schema is a comprehension strategy that good readers use when they are reading. Thinking about what you already know is called using your schema or using your background knowledge. Schema is all the information that is already in your head, like places you've been, things you have done, books that you've read. Schema is all the experiences that make the person you are and what you know and believe is true. When you use your schema, it helps you understand the text you are reading.

I have encouraged students to be active participants in their reading and not just passive readers reading words and not making any connection with the text. Making meaningful connections is imperative to gaining a deeper level of understanding when reading. Schema is the cornerstone to all of the reading strategies to be applied to reader when being engaged in a text. Students need to use schema when visualizing, questioning, inferring, monitoring reading and synthesizing.

Important Understandings for Children:

- Readers activate their prior knowledge before, during and after reading.
- Readers use schema to make connections between the text and their lives, between one text and another and between text and the world.
- Readers distinguish between connections that are meaningful and relevant and those that aren't.

List adapted from Reading with Meaning by Deb Miller