

Reading Comprehension Strategies & Resources



Some children find it difficult to understand and remember the information when reading. This can be for a range of reasons. There are different things children can learn to do to help them understand and remember what they have read. This handout will point out useful strategies and resources that are available for download and use on the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) website.

❖ Textbook Text Features

Some children find it hard to pick out the most important information in what they are reading. This makes the reading and understanding process even harder.



Most subject textbooks are designed in the same way and use the same **features** to help learners **find** the **important** information on the page. These are called '**Text Features**'. You can point out and talk about these 'Text Features' with your child and practise finding them in their subject textbooks.

Some Text features include:

Title Page	Highlighted or Bolded words	Table of contents
Glossaries	Coloured boxes	Review Questions
Vocabulary or word boxes	Graphics e.g. pictures, charts & diagrams	Index

There are online educational videos that can help to explain Text Features using fun animations:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivWVs8-Cd1U>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTUVv6oNMqU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANXZpJTaozA>

How can Text Features help?



To understand words and vocabulary:	To find main ideas and topics:	To find data or places:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> glossary vocabulary/word boxes bolded or highlighted words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> table of contents headings/subheadings index main idea boxes questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maps charts tables

This information can be found on page 6 of **Learning from Textbook: Reading at Second Level:**

Strategies for Success accessed on: <https://www.nbss.ie/node/167>

NCSE Text Features Handout: 'Using Text Features'

There is a resource booklet with lots more information on how to learn and work through this reading strategy. It can be downloaded from the NCSE Website on <https://www.nbss.ie/node/219>.

This booklet includes activities and worksheets for children to practise the skill of finding Text Features and also looks at some other reading comprehension strategies like **Skimming & Scanning**.



TEXTBOOK SCAVENGER HUNT



❖ Summarising Information



Summarising is another useful way of helping your child understand and focus on the important information they have read. **Graphs or diagrams** are useful tools to help your child to organise information in a clear and meaningful way; it also allows for easy revision of information they have read.

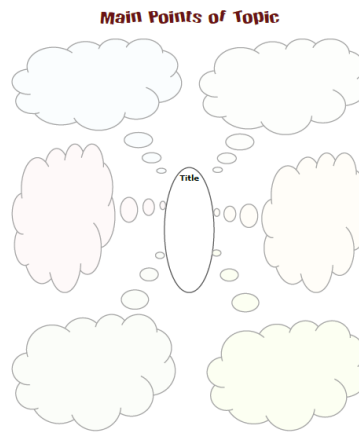
This resource book 'Summarising Maps & Organisers' gives lots of examples and blank worksheets that children can use to practise summarising what they have read in a textbook or novel. It can be accessed here:

<https://www.nbss.ie/node/224>.

Some examples of these visual organisers are below to give you an idea of what is included in this resource.

Story/Chapter Summary

WHO? Who are the main characters and what are they like?	
WHAT? What is the story about? What is the problem and how is it sorted?	
WHEN? When does the story take place?	
WHERE? Where does the story take place?	
WHY? Why is there a problem?	



Other things to Learn & Practise

There are lots of visual strategies and resources to support reading comprehension in the **‘Learning from Textbook: Reading at Second Level: Strategies for Success’** resource book available on the NCSE website <https://www.nbss.ie/node/167>.

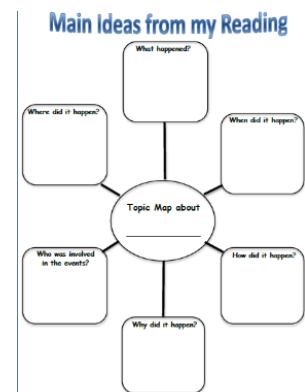
This resource book goes through different strategies like **‘Finding the main idea’**; **‘predicting’**; **‘making connections’**; **‘questioning’**. Your child can learn about and then practise these through exercises & worksheets in the book.

Different people will prefer different resources and it takes some trial and error to find a strategy and resource that works for you and your child.

3-2-1

When you finish reading the paragraph or page write down your 3-2-1 points to help you sum up the main ideas and to figure out anything you don't fully understand.

3	Important things I found out...
2	Interesting things...
1	Questions I still have...



These resource books were originally written for use in the classroom by teachers and students but in this instance parents can use with their children or students may choose to use them independently.