

Parents' Comprehension Corner

Dig Deep for Meaning!

Summarizing

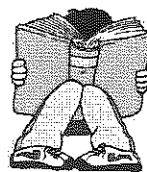
There's a big difference between information and knowledge. We have an abundance of information, but information alone is meaningless. It has to be thought about and organized and then internalized, and then maybe you will end up with knowledge. You get from disparate facts to knowledge only if you take the time to determine what's important so that it becomes meaningful.

—7 Keys to Comprehension:
How to Help Your Kids Read It and Get It!

In order to create meaningful summaries, students must understand what they read and make decisions about which information or ideas are most important. This process starts before students read when they decide their purpose for reading, think of questions they want answered, and bring their prior knowledge to the text. While reading, students must actively search for new facts or ideas and pay attention to text organization. After reading, students must ask themselves what they understood and reread to clarify their ideas. The goal is for all of these processes to become natural and automatic; they're things good readers do!

Tips

- ◆ Remind your child that summaries include only the most important events and ideas. They are like movie previews that give enough information to understand the plot without giving everything away.
- ◆ In nonfiction texts, the layout can help your child figure out what's important. Titles, headings, pictures with captions, timelines, graphs, and maps support the most important ideas. Be sure your child doesn't



skip over these tools!

Continue to Create Curiosity!

Curiosity pushes students to find information important to them. Without a sense of wonder, without a desire to know more, students will think reading is boring. They might go through the motions of reading without actually reading at all. But,

true curiosity encourages discovery and creates engaged readers. **YOU** are the best person to find out what your child really wants to know more about (fiction or nonfiction) in order to spark that love of reading!