



What Can A Parent Do To Promote Thinking?

“Children grow into the intellectual life around them.”

Lev Vygotsky

The skill of Synthesizing means: Creating a new whole. In literacy, it means combining information from text with existing knowledge to see something in a new way.

Ideas and tips for parents for the skill of Synthesizing:

Synthesizing is the most complex comprehension skill because a reader’s thinking evolves throughout the text. The following structure can be a fun way to discuss a story or informational text with your child.

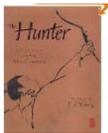
It Says...I Say...And So...

- Ask a question about the text and have your child answer using evidence from the story.
- Discuss with your child what he or she already knows about the topic.
- Combine what the text(s) say(s) with what your child knows to come up with an answer.

Example:

- Why did Goldilocks break Baby Bear’s chair?
- The story says she sits in the baby chair but she is not a baby. She is a young girl. Baby chairs aren’t very big. She is bigger than a baby, so she weighs more.
- Goldilocks is too heavy to sit in the baby chair so it breaks.

Books that support the application of this skill:



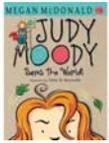
The Hunter: A Chinese Folktale. Casanova, Mary.

The Magic Gourd. Diakit  Baba Wagu 



La Mariposa. Jiménez, Francisco.

David's Drawing. Falwell, Cathryn



Judy Moody Saves the World. McDonald, Megan

Stone Soup. Muth, Jon J.



The Water Gift and the Pig of the Pig. Martin, Jacqueline Briggs

Calabash Cat and His Amazing Journey. Rumford, James

Who's Whose? Ormerod, Jan.



The Smallest Cow in the World. Paterson, Katherine.

The Surprise Family. Reiser, Lynn.



Apple Pie 4th of July. Wong, Janet S

Questions that a parent can ask his/her child to reinforce this skill:

How can the information in the text be shown in a picture?

How might you show the relationships in the text visually?

What parts of this text can you use to create new ideas or products?

If you were going to put the facts you've learned in a letter, what would it say?

How has your thinking changed as you've read more?