



What Can A Parent Do To Promote Thinking?

"Children grow into the intellectual life around them."

Lev Vygotsky

The skill of visualizing means: Creating a mental image. Proficient readers create mental images as they read. For many readers, it's more than just visual images, they also pay attention to the other senses by noting smells, textures, sounds, mood and ambiance. The images change as the words change. Visualizing the story helps readers understand and comprehend the text. Proficient readers use their mental images to draw conclusions, to make inferences and to fill in spaces. The images clarify the readers' thinking. They combine the words from the text with their own background knowledge to create pictures in their mind. Creating mental images helps the reader remember the details of the story

Ideas and tips for parents for the skill of visualizing:

When you are reading to your child:

Notice descriptive language and share the pictures that come to your mind with your child. Have your child draw the pictures that are come to mind when you are reading a story to him/her.

Books that support the application of this skill:

When selecting a book to reinforce visualizing, choose a book that contains descriptive language and strong verbs that lends itself to conjuring up vivid images. It is not necessary to read an entire book. Poetry works wonders for visualizing!

Good Dog Carl By Alexandra Day
The Blue House Dog By Deborah Blumenthal
Night In The Country By Cynthia Rylant
Through Grandpa's Eyes By Patricia MacLachlan
Two Bad Ants By Chris Van Allsberg
The Stories Julian Tells By Ann Cameron
Owl Moon By Jane Yolen
The Bear That Heard Crying By Natalie Kinsey
Smokey Night By Eve Bunting

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

"After reading this part, what pictures come to your mind?"

"What pictures could you see in your mind as you read this book?"

"What words helped you form that picture?"

"Can you feel/smell/taste/hear this part of the story?"