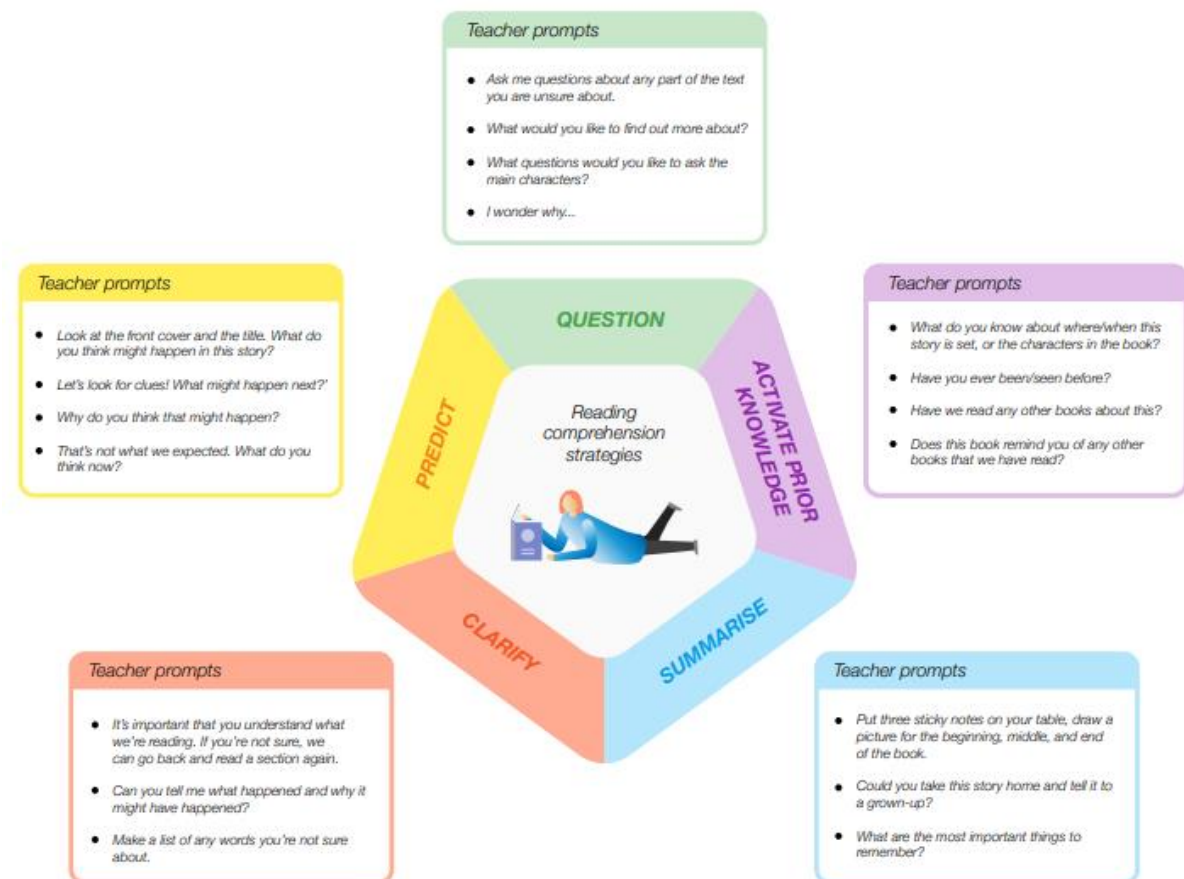


Reading Comprehension Strategies

Improving Literacy Report, EEF (2021)

Reading comprehension can be improved by teaching pupils specific strategies that they can apply both to monitor and overcome barriers to understanding. A number of different strategies exist and some overlap. They support children to interact in the moment with a text, to identify key points, and make inferences from what they are reading.

Figure 5: Reading comprehension with prompts to support practice



The strategies can be introduced individually but pupils should also be taught when to use and how to combine strategies. The effectiveness of teaching pupils to integrate multiple strategies is well-supported by research evidence and is likely to be more effective than relying on single strategies in isolation.

The use of these strategies is developed and refined as the reader learns which ones are best suited to aid their comprehension at the right time. Actively engaging with texts and monitoring their own understanding are essential as the child develops the confidence to apply reading comprehension strategies independently in their own reading. Discussions that encourage children to reflect on the strategies they used whilst reading should support ongoing refinement of their deployment.

Ultimately, the aim is for pupils themselves to take responsibility for automatically using these strategies to monitor and improve their reading comprehension.