

# Three Level Comprehension Guide for Active Reading

**What it is:** Leveled reading is a way to comprehend, interpret and apply difficult texts by working at the literal, interpretive and applied levels.

**What it does:** Leveled reading helps readers to go beyond the surface of a text in a step-by-step way.

## **Level 1 (literal – reading what is right there)**

Here the reader finds the answer in the text. The reader might be asked to do any of the following:

- Identify the main ideas of the paragraph or short story.
- Recall details that support the main ideas.
- Organize the sequence in which the main events occurred.

**Examples of literal question starters:** *What happened . . . ? How many . . . ? How did . . . ? Who . . . ? What is . . . ?? Which . . . ?*

## **Level 2 (interpretive – reading between the lines)**

Here, the reader interprets the information to find answers. The reader might be asked to any of the following:

- Predict endings and anticipate consequences.
- State reasons for events.
- Make generalizations.

**Examples of interpretive question starters:** *Why did . . . ? What was . . . ? What do you think about . . . ? Can you explain...? How was this similar to . . . ?*

## **Level 3 (applied – reading beyond the lines)**

Here the reader makes links between the text and his or her own experience and knowledge to develop an answer. The reader asks open-ended questions to promote deeper understanding and do the following:

- Make generalizations.
- Make comparisons.
- Make judgments.
- Make recommendations and suggestions.
- Make decisions.
- Create alternative endings.

**Examples of applied question starters:** *How would you...? Do you agree . . . ? What would have happened if . . . ? How might . . . ? What effect does . . . ? If you were . . . what would you . . . ?*