

What you might see:

You might see a child who:

Can read words accurately but struggles to explain meaning.

Finds it hard to recall or summarise what has been read.

Gives literal responses and struggles with inference.

Misunderstands figurative language or idioms.

Has limited awareness of character, setting, or plot development.

Needs frequent re-reading to make sense of a passage.

What you can try:

- Model 'thinking aloud' to show how readers make meaning.
- Use reciprocal reading strategies (predict, clarify, question, summarise).
- Provide visual organisers to sequence or summarise ideas.
- Highlight and discuss key vocabulary and figurative language.
- Use film clips, images or drama to build understanding before reading.
- Check understanding regularly through discussion or quizzes.
- Use Large Language AI Models (LLMs) to simplify texts where appropriate.
- Teach vocabulary and concepts explicitly.
- Provide adult-led small-group support to model comprehension strategies.
- Provide structured opportunities to practise and apply comprehension skills.