

Reading Strategies in Action

30 minutes, 3 stages

When you read a text, you are not just looking at words on a page. Your brain is working to figure out what the author means. You are connecting ideas together. You are understanding the world through the text. Students interpret and respond to texts through application of comprehension strategies ([Outcome](#)). The strategies you practise in this homework help you understand harder texts. Predicting, inferring, summarizing, and making connections are four important strategies. They help you manage the information inside texts ([Knowledge](#), [Skills](#)).

Stage 1: Warm-up and prediction (8 min)

Read the short passage below, then answer the questions that follow.

The Lighthouse Keeper

Maya climbed the spiral stairs two at a time, her boots echoing against the old stone walls. Her grandfather had kept this lighthouse for forty years, and now that his hands trembled too much to climb the tower alone, Maya had taken over the evening watch. She checked the lamp carefully, wiping away the dust that had gathered on the glass. Every night, ships passed through the rocky channel below, trusting the beam to guide them safely home. Maya knew that if she missed even one check, a ship could be lost. She lit the lamp exactly at dusk, just as her grandfather had taught her, and recorded the time in the logbook without fail. Tonight, though, something was wrong. The beam was flickering, growing dim and then bright again in an uneven rhythm. Maya frowned and reached for her toolbox, determined to fix the problem before the fishing boats began their journey home.

Your task:

1. Before you read the rest of the story (which you won't, because this is all we have), what do you predict will happen next? Write one or two sentences. What clues in the passage helped you make this prediction?
2. What can you infer about Maya's grandfather from the passage? Write one sentence about what kind of person he was.

Stage 2: Close reading and analysis (12 min)

Read the passage again. This time, you will analyse the text by looking closely at the details and making connections.

Your task:

1. Summarize the main idea of the passage in one sentence. What is the passage mostly about?
2. Find two pieces of evidence from the text that show Maya takes her job seriously. Write them out as direct quotes (copy the exact words).
3. Make a connection: Have you ever felt responsible for something important? Write two or three sentences describing your experience and how it connects to Maya's situation. Making text-to-self connections is a comprehension strategy that can support analyzing and synthesizing texts ([Knowledge](#)).
4. The passage states that "the beam was flickering." What can you infer about the problem Maya must solve? Write one or two sentences explaining your inference and what clues from the text helped you reach it.

Stage 3: Synthesis and reflection (10 min)

Now you will put your ideas together and think about what you have learned.

Your task:

1. Based on everything you have read and written, what do you think is the main conflict or challenge in this story? Write two sentences.
2. List two comprehension strategies you used while working through this homework. For each one, write a sentence explaining how it helped you understand the passage better. (Strategies include predicting, inferring, making connections, summarizing, and synthesizing.)
3. If you were to read more of this story, what would you want to know? Write one question you would ask about Maya, the lighthouse, or what happens next.

Self-check

Ask yourself these questions to see how well you understood the passage and used comprehension strategies:

1. Can you explain what Maya's job is and why it matters to her? If yes, you understood the main ideas in the text.
2. Did you use at least two different comprehension strategies (such as predicting, inferring, or making connections) to help you understand the passage? If yes, you are applying strategies the way the learning outcome asks ([Outcome](#)).
3. Could you find text evidence to support your ideas about Maya and the lighthouse?