

Synthesizing

What is *synthesizing*?

Synthesizing is the process whereby a student merges new information with prior knowledge to form a new idea, perspective, or opinion or to generate insight.

How does *synthesizing* support reading comprehension?

Synthesizing aids reading comprehension because it requires students to put the new material into their own words and combine it with their prior knowledge. This makes it more likely that they will remember the information and transfer it to new situations, which further reinforces the information.

What do skilled readers do when they are *synthesizing*?

Skilled readers synthesize as they read. They will:

- Stop to collect their thoughts
- Identify the main idea
- Put the information into their own words and respond to it
- Combine what they have just learned with what they already know and then respond to it

(Allen, 2004; Harvey & Goudvis, 2000, 2005)

http://ohiorc.org/adlit/strategy/strategy_each.aspx?id=000002#how

How to help your child synthesize:

First model your thinking as you read a story by saying aloud what you think and why. Then, have your child use the graphic organizer below to record their thinking.

Synthesizing Graphic Organizer

Putting together information from the text and your background knowledge in order to create new understandings.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| I'm thinking... | I'm now thinking... |
| I think this because... | I now think this because... |
| I'm now thinking... | This is what I'm taking with me from the story. |
| I now think this because... | |