

9.8 Read, Cover, Remember, Retell

Strategy Read as much as you can cover with your hand or a sticky note. Cover the text you just read. Focus on remembering what you read (it's OK to be quiet!). Say back what you remember (it's OK to peek back!). Repeat.

Teaching Tip This strategy is one of my favorite strategies to teach when students are beginning to research, although it works any time you want to slow children down to monitor their comprehension. When researching, what often happens is that students copy down information without really understanding it. Covering up the information before retelling (or taking notes) forces the reader to understand it well enough to put it into his or her own words. I also find that students read with a different level of attention and concentration knowing that they have to say back what they learned without reading it from the text.

Prompts

- Read. Now cover.
- Say back what you read.
- You can peek!
- Not sure? Uncover the text and reread. When you think you have it, cover it again.
- Make sure you think as you read, to make sure you “get” it.
- Retell it.

Know What You're Reading!

Here's how:

step 1: **READ!** 

step 2: **COVER!** 

step 3: **REMEMBER!** 

step 4: **RETELL!** 

Who is this for?

LEVELS

A-Z+

GENRE / TEXT TYPE

nonfiction

SKILLS

summarizing/retelling,
monitoring for
meaning



Hat Tip: Revisit, Reflect, Retell: Time-Tested Strategies for Teaching Reading Comprehension (Hoyt 2008)