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Reading 4043
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SMART (Self Monitoring Approach to Reading and Thinking)

Description: *SMART* is a strategy that helps students to think about how their reading is proceeding. It assists students in knowing what sorts of questions they need to ask themselves during the reading of a text to gain meaning. *SMART* is based on the idea that effective reading starts with recognizing what is understood and not understood in a particular text.

SMART:

- Provides students with a system for monitoring their reading success.
- Allows students to verbalize what they do and do not understand about a text.
- Encourages students to persist until a text is understood.
- Provides clear steps to clear up misunderstandings.
- Involves students in summarizing the text in their own words
- Helps them to remember key ideas in a text.

Targeted Reading Level- Primary-College

Primary Focus: Comprehension

Procedure:

1. Have the students read a section of the text. Then have them take a pencil and draw a tick next to every paragraph that they understand and a question mark next to the paragraphs that they are confused about.
2. After they have read a section, have them go back and explain to themselves what they just read. Have them look back at the text as they go over it in their mind.
3. Have the students re-read the trouble spot to see if it now makes sense. If it still does not make sense, have them pinpoint the problem by figuring out why they are having trouble:

- Is it a difficult word or unfamiliar vocabulary?
 - Is it a difficult sentence or confusing language?
 - Is it a subject about which you know very little?
4. Use a "fix-up" or help strategy. Use the glossary or dictionary for unfamiliar terms. Examine pictures, diagrams, or summaries that might give more information.
 5. If they are still having difficulties then have them ask for help from a peer, teacher, or tutor.

Reference:

Buehl, Doug. Classroom Strategies for Interactive Learning; Second Edition. International Reading Association, Newark, Delaware, 2001.