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**Question:**

How do I get my kids to read and comprehend textbooks?

**Andie's Answer:**

I know you're wondering why kids experience difficulties in reading and comprehending most textbooks. Did you know that most textbooks are written on a level that is too difficult for most students to read and comprehend? In my seventh grade science class I found this to be true. My students were having difficulty reading the text. As a result, they stopped reading the book all together, so I tried something that I learned in a reading interventions workshop. I decided to summarize each chapter of the science textbook in a single page. I included major concepts and vocabulary. Next, I printed and laminated enough copies for each pair of students to have a copy. Then I paired students (one good reader, one struggling reader) and had each student read the summary to their partner in the first 15 minutes of every class period until the unit was completed. I rotated among the groups offering assistance. Students hated it at first but it helped them learn and achieve, and, eventually, they grew to like the process.

Repetition is one of the best teachers. The students heard and read the information that was important to learn every day. By scaffolding instruction, students were not only able to read the material, but they were able to comprehend and interact with the text. Consider this tidbit and try it in your classroom!