



Readers Climb the Hurdle of Hard Words by...

- Chunking the word.
- Thinking about the story (picture: 'what's going on?')
- Asking, "Does it look like a word I know?"
- Asking, "Does it sound like a word I know?"
- Trying out the different sounds that letters can make.
- Searching for clues to figure out what words mean.
- Using context clues to figure out which noun a pronoun represents.
- Working out figurative language phrases, using the text to help.



Readers Understand a Story by...

- Giving themselves a comprehension check.
- Thinking, "What mind-work is this text signaling me to do?"
 - "Should I make a movie in my mind as I read? (Use pictures for the details.)"
 - "Or should I list—collect—information I'm learning?" (So I don't lose it altogether.)
- Making a prediction about what might happen next in the text, based on . . .
 - what has already happened
 - what you know about how stories tend to go
 - empathizing with the characters
- Retelling the big parts of their book that they've previously read