

ACTIVATING SCHEMA & BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE



BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER READING

WHAT is Schema?

Schema is what a reader **already knows**.

It includes:

-  Experiences
-  Prior learning
-  Vocabulary
-  Places
-  People
-  Events
-  Background knowledge

KEY TAKEAWAY:

When students lack background knowledge, comprehension suffers—even if they can decode the words.

WHY Activate Schema?

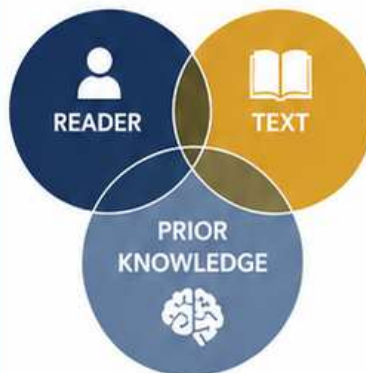
Good readers connect new information to what they **already know**.

When we activate schema, students:

- ✓ Understand more
- ✓ Remember more
- ✓ Make connections
- ✓ Visualize more easily
- ✓ Engage with the text
- ✓ Draw better conclusions

RESEARCH-BASED PRINCIPLE

Comprehension is the interaction between the **reader, the text, and prior knowledge**.



HOW Do We Activate Schema?



BEFORE READING



BUILD BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Ask:

- What do you already know?
- Have you seen something similar?
- Where is this place?
- Who is this person?



SHOW VISUALS

Maps • Photographs • Artifacts • Timelines



CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE

Ask:

- Have you ever experienced something similar? This helps students connect to the text.



DURING READING



PAUSE AND CONNECT

Ask:

- Does this remind you of anything?
- What are you picturing?
- What do you already know that helps you understand this verse?



CLARIFY VOCABULARY

Teach and discuss key words.



BUILD NEW SCHEMA

Every verse adds new knowledge. Students continually revise their understanding as they read.



AFTER READING



REFLECT AND EXTEND

Ask:

- What did you learn?
- How has your thinking changed?
- What connections can you make now?



RETELL

Students explain the passage in their own words.



APPLY

- What does this teach us about God?
- What does this teach us about people?



CONNECT TO FUTURE READING

New schema becomes background knowledge for the next lesson.

BUILD THE BRIDGE

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BEFORE READING

Build the bridge.
Prepare the mind
for understanding.



DURING READING

Use the bridge.
Connect, clarify,
and build understanding.



AFTER READING

Strengthen the bridge.
Reflect, apply, and
make it lasting.



A FEW MINUTES OF BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE
CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN **CONFUSION** AND **COMPREHENSION**.

