Recognize the signs of a successful reader.

In Grade 7, your adolescent will read a variety of fiction and non-fiction that may cover topics beyond his or her personal experiences. Some will have mature themes that deal with human problems, such as abuse, war or racism. You can tell whether your child is reading successfully by watching for growth in the following reading behaviours, described in the Provincial Achievement Standards for the end of Grade 7:

- Checking for understanding and adjusting reading strategies when meaning is lost
- Encourage your preteen to read aloud to you sometimes. Praise his or her efforts.
- Verifying and adjusting predictions while reading
- Encourage your child to use clues in the text and text features (e.g., titles, headings, photographs and captions) to make predictions and then check how close they were.
- Reflecting on strategies used to understand what is read
- Encourage your preteen to tell you how she or he uses strategies to improve understanding (e.g., forming mental pictures while reading, making connections, asking questions).

You can be involved in building your child’s reading skills.

Although your preteen is more independent, you still play an active part in his or her learning. One way is to help your child set aside enough time for reading. When possible, give him or her a choice of reading material that is appealing (newspapers, magazines, suitable internet sites). Invite your child to talk about what he or she is reading. You might enjoy reading some of the same books and discussing them. If you do, here are some examples of questions you could ask each other to get the conversation started:

- Why is this event or character’s action important to the story?
- What do you think the author wants you to think about and remember?
- Does the author keep you interested in this selection? How?
- Do you think that the author is presenting all viewpoints?

By the end of Grade 7, your preteen should be able to read and understand reading material similar to that above. Some topics, such as pop culture, fictitious societies and other worlds, tend to have special appeal for this age group. In keeping with his or her growing independence, your adolescent may enjoy books that challenge your idea of what is suitable.

The language in reading material for this age is more challenging, so your child may occasionally have to use a dictionary or glossary, or look for clues in the surrounding text, to understand a word or phrase.

In fiction, plots are more complicated (subplots, multiple story lines, unexpected twists). Main characters can be complex and unpredictable, with shades of good and bad.

Information texts, such as the extract from Andrew Hollemann: On a Mission, convey additional information through text features, such as subheadings, captions, bold type and subheadings (Andrew’s Argument). At this age level, the amount of information presented may require the reader to synthesise ideas rather than remember every detail.

Contact Us

The Department of Education is committed to your child’s reading and writing success. If you have any questions about your child’s progress or about how you can be an active part of his or her learning, contact your child’s teacher or the provincial literacy team at 506-453-2812.