



Comprehension Strategies

Lesson 3 Non-Fiction Text – ‘The Port’ (Junior Journal 47)

Explain that sometimes the students might have chosen a non-fiction (factual) book to read over summer. When we read non-fiction books we can still use the same strategies that we use to help us understand fiction books – i.e. reread; ask questions; make connections; predict; and summarising.

Introduce ‘The Port’

Today I’m going to read a text called ‘The Port’. I can tell it is an information report because it has a series of facts under different headings. It also has maps and photos which will help me to better understand.

*I know that when I go into the city I see the Port of Auckland and there are often lots of ships there **(making connections)***

I wonder what happens at a port. I’m going to read and find out. Read page 24 & 25 aloud. ‘Think aloud’ as you read... okay so I think this report will be mainly about the port where Brady’s dad works – the Port of Tauranga. I’m sure there will be things that are the same in all ports though. So the ships that go to the port are cargo ships – they carry goods like fruit and cars. The port is where they unload or drop off the goods or load them onto the ships.

Talk through the photos on page 25

Page 26

*I can see that there is the heading ‘Imports and Exports’ on page 26. Sometimes it helps me focus on the main ideas if I turn the heading into a question... What are imports and exports? **(asking questions)***

*Read the first paragraph aloud. Okay so imports are when goods come into New Zealand and exports are when we send things to other countries. I wonder what we export? Looking at the photo on page 27 I wonder if we export logs? **(predicting)***

Continue reading the rest of page 26 aloud. Then **summarise** – so in NZ we export kiwifruit and logs and import fertiliser and dry food for cows

Pages 27 and 28

There is another heading on this page so I will turn it into a question to help me focus on the main ideas. So this time my question will be...What kinds of ships visit the port?

Read both pages and then summarise aloud. Bulk carriers have big spaces in them to carry goods like logs and fertiliser. Tankers carry liquids like petrol and oil. Container ships have huge metal boxes with goods inside them. Cruise ships take people all over the world. These ships are like hotels on water

Page 29

Look at the photo on page 29. I have read about the types of ships that carry cargo, including people, so now I'm wondering what these 'special boats' will be and what they do. So my questions are 'Why do we have special boats at the port?' 'What do they do?'

Model your thinking...The photo on page 29 shows 2 tugboats alongside the cruise ship. I think they must be helping the ship. Now I think we're going to find out how they help.

Ask the students to predict what they think the boats do.

Read page 29 aloud and again summarise at the end. Tugboats are powerful and push or pull big ships into port. The pilot launch takes the pilot out to the big ship to help guide the ship into port.

Page 30

Thinking aloud...The heading has the word safety and the first sentence says "The port is a dangerous place." I'm thinking that the main idea is "Staying safe at the port." I wonder why the port is dangerous?

Ask students to share some ideas... heavy machinery

Read page 30 aloud and at the end summarise. Brady's dad keeps safe by wearing a safety vest and by having a flashing light on his truck.

Page 31

I notice there are 2 headings on this page so that means there will be 2 main ideas.

The first heading tells me the idea is about safety at sea.

Read the first paragraph on safety at sea.

Read the second paragraph aloud and model your thinking...shipping accidents like the Rena accident can cause a lot of damage to the environment and cost a lot of money to clean up

Read the concluding paragraph and summarise your thoughts e.g. although accidents at sea do happen, it is a sensible way to move cargo around the world.

Possible follow-up idea = listen to the audio version of this text available as an MP3 file at:

www.juniorjournal@tki.org.nz