



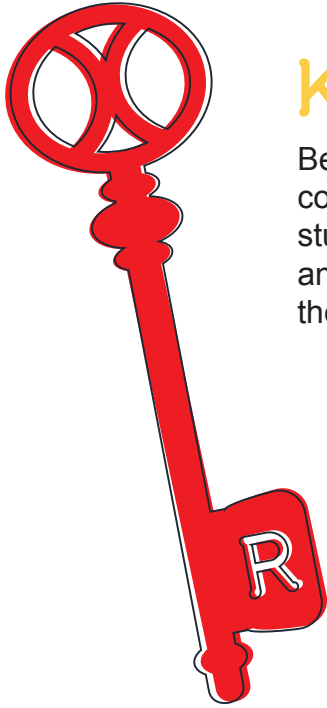
Back up and Reread

Keys to
Comprehension

**Ruby
Reader**

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Back up and Reread



Keys for the Teacher

Beginning readers often stop at an unknown word and the flow of comprehension is interrupted. Once the unknown word is decoded, students must back up and reread the sentence to capture the meaning and restore the flow. Backing up and rereading is also essential when the text read does not make sense, or after reading words inattentively.

Keys for the Children

Good readers back up and reread the whole sentence again whenever they stop to figure out a word or when something doesn't make sense.

Lesson

Begin by having a discussion on what the term “back up” means. Many children will relate the term to “moving backwards.” Encourage students to stand up and physically “back up.” As they are practicing, introduce the back-up signal. Make a fist, with thumb sticking out. Move thumb over your shoulder as you say “back up.”

Next, explain how backing up can help you become a good reader. On a chart tablet with text, demonstrate how to back up and reread after decoding a tricky word. Use your finger to sweep from the word back to the beginning of the sentence. Slow down as you read the text again. Reinforce that we back up and reread so we can understand the whole sentence.

Regularly revisit and model this strategy in a variety of texts. Take advantage of teachable moments when you inadvertently trip on a word. Describe your thinking as you read again for meaning. Children also need to know that sometimes our minds wander to other things. Even though we are still reading the words, we are not listening, thinking or understanding the text. This is another opportunity to reinforce that reading must always make sense.

Notes...

1

Encourage children to slow down as they reread. This naturally focuses attention on meaning.

2

Silently use the back-up hand signal with a student while conferring, if needed. This can be a gentle reminder to read the sentence again.

3

Be sure to point out when you notice a student back up and reread. This helps them become self-aware, which in turn reinforces their ability to monitor their reading.

