



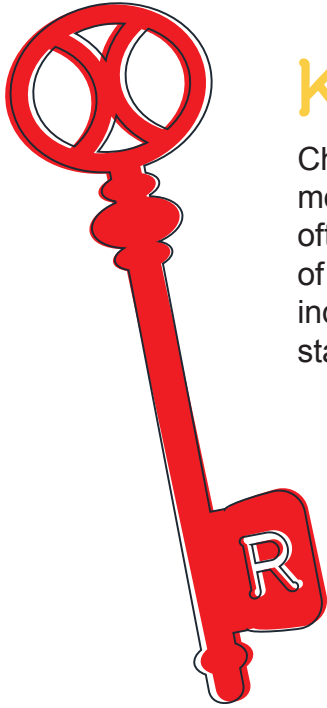
Check for Understanding

Keys to
Comprehension

**Ruby
Reader**

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Check for Understanding



Keys for the Teacher

Check for Understanding is a tool that children can use to help them monitor their understanding of what they are reading. First time readers often obtain story meaning through picture clues. As the difficulty level of the text increases, however, students become focused on decoding individual words and meaning can be lost. Therefore, Check for Understanding needs to become a habit from the very beginning.

Keys for the Children

Good readers know that understanding what we read is how we can enjoy and learn from books. It is important to stop often and think about “who” is in the story and “what” is happening.

Lesson

On the first day of school ask students this questions, “How many of you would like to become better readers?” Once all hands are raised share that, “Good readers know a lot of secrets about reading. Would you like to hear one? It’s called Check for Understanding. What do you think that might mean? To understand what we read we have to stop, check and think, ‘who’ is in the story and ‘what’ is happening.” Add a kinesthetic movement to help cement the process in students’ minds. “Stop“ Hold your hand out as if stopping traffic. “Check” Make a big check, across your mid-line. “Who” and “What” Make a W with three fingers and hold it on your forehead.

The next step is to model, model, model this process while reading a book to the class. After the introductory period when you will be checking repeatedly, make it a habit to check for understanding once or twice everyday while reading to students.

Another way to practice this is the 10 Second Check. Say, “Turn and talk for 10. . . first person talks “who.” After ten seconds repeat with, “Turn and talk for 10 . . . second person talks “what.” Always reinforce that becoming an expert at Check for Understanding will help you become an expert at reading.

