

Literal Comprehension

Literal meaning is simply what is in the text. It is an important level because it provides the foundation that leads to more advanced comprehension skills.



Literal questions include:

What, Who, Where, and When

Types of word-level work to strengthen comprehension at this level:

- Decoding print
- Vocabulary building
- Attention to meaning: denotation and connotation
- How individual words contribute to the meaning of a sentence
- Practice with cohesive devices (pronouns, connectives, transitional words)

Literal questions:

- deals with factual information
- asks what the text explicitly states
- asks students to recall what is read
- Involves details and sequencing

Examples of Literal Questions

- What was missing from Corduroy's overalls?
- Who was in the house when the bears returned home?
- What animals were in the book?
- Where did they find the lost ring?
- When did they build the house?

