

*New Literacies and Reading
Comprehension on the Internet:
Strategies for Success*



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Why is this important?

- Yet, students are often frustrated, disoriented overwhelmed, and inexperienced when asked to read for information on the Internet (e.g., Bilal, 2001; Coiro & Dobler, 2003; Eagleton, 2003; Sutherland Smith, 2002).
- Thus, new sets of expectations and strategies are needed for successful meaning making and response using the Internet.

*So what IS reading comprehension
on the Internet?*

- The ability to read, understand, interpret and respond to information in multiple formats and multiple mediums that is created by and for multiple audiences.
- **New literacies:** The ability to successfully USE and ADAPT to rapidly changing technologies in ways that allow us to identify important problems, locate, critically evaluate, and synthesize information and communicate the solutions to others.

● *How is comprehension different?*

- Traditional informational text in books:
 - Written in a familiar textbook format
 - Pass through several editing processes
 - Finite amount of information is bound within the covers of a book
 - Images and related information is designed primarily for the purposes of informing or elaborating.
- However, Internet texts present several distinct and new challenges for readers...

● *How are we learning about the different comprehension demands required online?*

● *...by listening to and watching kids!*

- Think alouds
- Interviews
- Camtasia recordings
- Instant messaging
- New tasks
- New forms of assessment



Effective Search Terms

Challenges

- Do I search or browse?
- Do I use natural language or shorter phrases?
- Are some keywords/phrases better than others for getting *fewer* but *more meaningful* results?
- What if I can't spell the word I need?

Reading Search Results

Challenges

- What's a website, what's a category, and who's Earl and Jeeves?
- Are the results in any special order?
- What clues do the words after the link give me?
- Is there an advantage to using one search engine instead of another?

Reading Within Websites

Challenges

- What is the structure of the website?
- How does hypertext link ideas differently than sequential pages in a book? (non-linear vs. linear)
- Where is the information I need on a certain page?
- Who created the website and for what purpose?



Summary and Implications

- “The definition of literacy has expanded from traditional notions of reading and writing to include the ability to learn, comprehend and interact with technology in a meaningful way” (Selfe, 2001).
- New literacies are required to use the Internet to locate, evaluate, synthesize and communicate to others solutions to learning tasks and authentic problems (Leu, Kinzer, Coiro, & Cammack, 2004)



Summary and Implications



- Effective reading and comprehension instruction **MUST** include strategies and supported experiences for exploring, understanding and adapting to the constant changes that take place on the Internet.



Summary and Implications

- Only then can we expect students to select Internet technologies that enhance comprehension and to ignore those that detract from understanding what they read.



Sample Lesson: How do you fare?

Google™

Web Images Groups News Froogle^{New!} more »

+whales + "second grade"

Search

[Advanced Search](#)
[Preferences](#)

Web

Results 1 - 10 of about 4,610 for +whales

Marci McGowan's Second Grade Class

Mrs. McGowan's **Second Grade** Class HW Mountz School Spring Lake, New Jersey. ... My class was very excited to study **whales** by participating in this project. ...
comsewogue.k12.ny.us/~ssilverman/whaletales/mcgowan.htm - 9k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

Welcome to Second Grade!

... We have read many non-fiction texts about **whales** and learned interesting whale ... It is always fun to see the children as they progress through **second grade**. ...
www.marion.k12.ia.us/Starry_Site/2home.html - 29k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

Everything we want to learn in second grade!

... by Danielle. In **second grade** I want to learn about blue **whales**. by Jamie. In **second grade** I want to learn about how to catch frogs and toads. by Kathryn. ...
www2.lhric.org/pocantico/taverna/98/want.htm - 3k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

Benson Teams: Second Grade

Benson Primary > Second Grade This page is designed as a place to explore the many activities of Benson Primary School's **second grade** students. ...
itasca.k12.il.us/benson/facultypages/second/ - 23k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)