



Date: _____

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We know how important it is for students to learn to read well—but reading well means more than saying the words correctly. It means understanding them. A student can read a text accurately and still come away with very little if they aren't actively thinking about what the words mean.

Reading comprehension is an active, ongoing process impacted by many factors (e.g., prior knowledge, vocabulary, working memory, interest). It isn't a single skill to be mastered—however, a child's ability and potential to understand what they read can be strengthened in deliberate, research-based ways.

At school, your child will be participating in lessons and activities from Read Naturally's Comprehension Builder that build knowledge, teach strategies to use before, during, and after reading, prepare them to respond to several different types of comprehension questions, provide scaffolded practice opportunities, and more. You can learn more about the rationale and research basis for Comprehension Builder at <https://www.readnaturally.com/article/comprehension-builder-rationale-research-basis>.

You can also help reinforce your child's development in reading comprehension at home:

- **Build background knowledge.** The more your child knows about the world, the more they can connect to and understand what they read—so talk about daily life and explore new topics together.
- **Establish a reading routine.** Set a regular reading time for your child, and let them see you read for enjoyment and understanding, too. Reading together also creates natural opportunities to discuss a text and make sense of it.
- **Help them find material that interests them.** Children engage more deeply with meaning when a topic interests them, so help your child explore a variety of subjects, genres, and text formats.
- **Ask specific questions about their reading.** Asking about details, comparisons, opinions, reasoning, retellings, etc., holds your child accountable for reading for meaning, deepens their understanding of a text, and encourages critical thinking.

Reading at home is a key factor in helping your child become a better reader. As we move through the year, I'll keep you updated on your child's progress and share more specific suggestions—tied to what we're working on and to any areas the data shows would benefit from extra practice. Together, the work we do at school and the support you provide at home make a powerful difference. Thank you for taking an active role in your child's reading development.

Sincerely,
