**Reading Strategies for NSTA Doc: (from www.learner.org)**

Pages 8-10….

**Summarize Information**

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A summary is a short statement -- usually a few sentences -- that gives the main ideas of a selection. A summary does not include all of the details as in a retelling. The essence of summary is that it is brief; it literally focuses on the key ideas of the text. Readers condense information into a brief summary of key ideas to reveal their level of comprehension. In order to summarize a text, readers filter out less significant or repetitious details, identify a general term for a list of specific details, combine ideas into a broad category, and create a topic sentence.

**Questions that help students summarize information:**

* What do you think is the BIG IDEA of this article? Of this paragraph?
* What two words would you use to describe the “gist” of the paragraph? Selection?
* When students read, they think about what most of the sentences are describing. Is there one sentence that describes the main idea for this topic?
* What was the focus of this reading selection?
* How can you condense the information described in this article using key ideas?
* Which details were most significant? Which details were less significant?

Pages 11-15:

**Paraphrase/Retell**

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Paraphrasing is restating or explaining ideas in your own words while retaining the meaning and ideas in the original selection. Retelling captures all of the main ideas with most of the supporting details. Paraphrasing helps young readers check their own comprehension.

**Questions that invite students paraphrase information:**

* How can you put these facts into your own words?
* Which words capture the main ideas from this selection? How can you use the list of key words to make your own fact statements?
* If you wrote the key ideas as a grocery list, how would you compact the text? Which items are essential to the list? Which items can be omitted?
* What was your purpose for reading? Which details matched your goals? Which details were irrelevant to your purposes for reading the article?
* What questions did you want answered in the text? What answers were revealed?

Pages 16-24:

**Identify Main Ideas and Supporting Details**

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The main idea is the most important element of a paragraph or selection. It is the focus of the text. Details are sentences that tell about the main idea. Details are “small pieces of information.” Facts are “small pieces of information” that can be proven true. Readers are able to determine the major points of information provided. They distinguish the relative importance of various pieces of information. Readers recall details from a selection, use details to visualize ideas, and use facts to support conclusions, predictions, and responses. Students collect details and facts that support main ideas. They identify details that reveal specific information.

**Questions that help students identify main ideas and supporting details:**

* Based on the title, what do you think the article will be about?
* What do you think is the BIG IDEA of this article? Of this paragraph?
* What two words would you use to describe the “gist” of the paragraph? Selection?
* Which details helped you picture . . .?
* What details from the selection support this hypothesis?
* When students read, they think about what most of the sentences are describing. Is there one sentence that describes the main idea for this topic?
* What was the focus of this reading selection?