

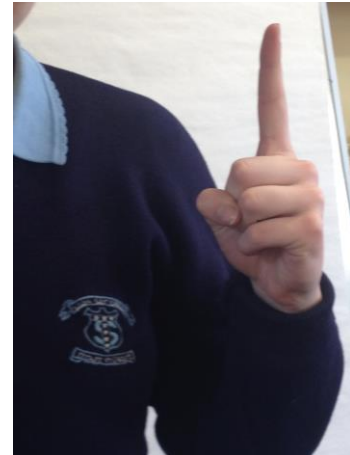
Comprehension Strategies – Determining Importance –

Determining Importance enables readers to constantly reflect on what is important in a phrase, sentence, paragraph, chapter of text. Proficient readers unconsciously separate the essential from the non-essential information and can determine what is important in a piece of text.

1. LEARNING OUTCOMES of Determining Importance

The pupils will be enabled to:

- **Understand what** determining importance is.
- **Understand why we need** to determine importance.
- Separate the **facts** of a piece of text – important and essential to non-important.
- **Group facts** according to topic/headings.
- **Edit** their essential facts/main points as they read more of the text.
- **Justify** their decision of facts using appropriate evidence from text.
- **Modify** the approach to Determining Importance based on text genre.
- **Cross curricular application of inference skills**



2. Some activities for Determining Importance

- **What's Your Story:** Having read the text fully first, children record on a sheet key pieces of information from the text in categories i.e. Setting, Main characters, Events. If this is done for different texts, the sheets can be used to compare texts.
- **Famous Five Key Word Search:** Children are asked to identify five key words in a text. They record these on post it notes and call them VIPs- Very Important Points. In small groups children compare their VIPs and provide justifications for choosing these words.
- **Main Idea Pyramid:** Having read a text the class brainstorm important facts and record these on post it notes. The notes are grouped into categories or topics and placed at the bottom of a 3 tiered pyramid. Each group of notes are consolidated to make a shared point and this is recorded in the next layer up of the pyramid. The idea is that finally one main message will be recorded at the top of the pyramid.

