

READING

SCHOOL STRATEGIES USED ACROSS SUBJECTS:

1. Know the purpose of your reading. If it is for testing, employ strategies 2-5.
2. Conduct a Google search on your head on the topic.
3. t.h.i.e.v.e the text to 'steal' as much information as possible about it (**T** title, **H** heading, **I** introduction, **E** every first sentence, **V** vocab and visuals, **E** end of chapter questions).
4. You will be asked literal (*On the lines* or *Author* questions), inferential (*Between the lines* or *You and Author* questions) and evaluative questions (*Beyond the lines* or *You* questions).
5. Use your elimination strategy to remove the least likely answers and narrow in on the most likely answer.

SUGGESTED HOME STRATEGIES:

1. Encourage your child to read in interest areas like sport and music.
2. Log on to free reading sites (see suggested home *Reading* resources).
3. Read with your child and ask them *how* and *why* questions about the text. Ask your child to predict what might be on the next page or next chapter.
4. Turn the captions on television (www.caphat.com.au will explain why).
5. Encourage your child to log on to free Youtube audiobooks and enjoy being read to before going to sleep.

WRITING on demand (unseen stimulus and time limit)

SCHOOL STRATEGIES USED ACROSS SUBJECTS:

1. Know the characteristics of the required genre.
2. Make the stimulus work for you instead of you working for the stimulus.
3. Plan using the circular plot model if the task is narrative (**A**ction start, **B**ackground, **C**omplication, **D**estroy or deliver, **E**nding).
4. Plan around three key ideas if the task is persuasive (Hot start, concession, TEEL paragraph x 3, cracking conclusion).
5. Use your time budget confidently.

SUGGESTED HOME STRATEGIES:

1. Encourage reading. There is a strong link between improved reading and writing.
2. Suggest your child use an electronic device to record a verbal response to the topic. Get them to transcribe their ideas on paper.
3. Encourage your child to proof-read all written responses to tasks and assignments. Encourage them to share their writing with you and respond to your suggestions.
4. Be aware of due dates for all assignments. Encourage time management around submission of rough drafts to the teacher.
5. Encourage a set amount of time on the free online writing programs (see suggested home *Writing* resources).

SPELLING

SCHOOL STRATEGIES USED ACROSS SUBJECTS:

1. Break difficult words into syllables. Sound them out. Talk like a robot in your head to help you break the word up.
2. Look for smaller words in bigger words.
3. Know spelling rules for endings. For example, if a word ends in *ic* you add *ally* (magic magically, tragic tragically).
4. Learn basic word origins (e.g. *geo* means *earth*). There is a basic etymology list in the School diary.
5. Learn the spelling rules in *Spelling Essentials*.
6. Learn spelling lists and carefully proof-read dictation given in most subjects.

SUGGESTED HOME STRATEGIES:

1. Encourage your child to complete their spelling homework.
2. Encourage a set amount of time each week to work on one of the free online spelling programs (Resources).
3. Encourage use of a dictionary and proof-read all homework and assignments.
4. Download the free app *Words with friends* and play *Scrabble* online with a friend.
5. Play games with words. Introduce a word for the week and use it as many times as possible that week.

GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION (definitions are in the School diary)

SCHOOL STRATEGIES USED ACROSS SUBJECTS:

1. Know when to use capital letters and full stops as well as commas, exclamation marks and question marks.
2. Know when to use colons and semicolons and the difference between them.
3. Know when to use brackets, hyphens and apostrophes.
4. Know how and when to use inverted commas.
5. Know and be able to identify nouns, verbs, articles, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions and conjunctions.

SUGGESTED HOME STRATEGIES:

1. Encourage your student to proof-read written responses for punctuation and grammar.
2. View some of the Youtube songs around grammar and punctuation (Check out *Schoolhouse Rock* sites).
3. Encourage a set amount of time each week to work on one of the free online grammar and punctuation programs (suggested home resources for Grammar and punctuation).

NUMERACY

SCHOOL STRATEGIES USED ACROSS SUBJECTS:

1. Understand the problem. Use a highlighter and mark the question that is being asked. Re-state the problem in your own words. Clarify the problem.
2. Devise a plan to solve the problem. Different people use different strategies to solve the same problem. You should develop a bank of 'working mathematically' strategies. Choose from a bank of skills that work for you.
3. Use your strategies or carry out your plan. Get pen on paper.
4. Look back or ask if your answer makes sense. Is the answer reasonable?
5. Be mindful of time, especially if you are being tested.

SUGGESTED HOME STRATEGIES:

1. Look for and engage your child in practical numeracy activities around the home (doubling a recipe, working out prices and change).
2. Encourage your child to understand the measures used for money, weight and distance, time volume and area in and around the home.
3. Encourage and engage your child in simple addition, multiplication, subtraction and division around the home. Try the number plate game. When you see a number plate on a passing vehicle ask your child to add the numbers, subtract the numbers or multiply the numbers.
4. Engage your child in opportunities around fractions, especially halves, thirds and quarters.
5. Encourage a set amount of time each week to work on one of the free online numeracy programs (suggested home resources for Numeracy). In particular, explore the online maths dictionary for easily understood definitions of maths concepts.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR HOME STRATEGIES (Some are free, most offer a free trial for a month and other cost money. It is worth checking the following):

ALL LITERACY ELEMENTS:

- <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/student-activities> (an American site but worth a look)
- www.studyladder.com.au (search for the relevant year level)
- <http://teachervision.com/reading-and-language-arts/games/5831.html> (K-12 literacy games)
- http://sheppardsoftware.com/web_games_vocab.htm (Scroll down. The site suggests which ones are useful for specific ages/groups/interests.)

READING:

- www.caphat.com.au (This site explains why turning captions on the television or DVDs helps your child to improve their reading.)
- Logon to Youtube and search popular audio book titles. Recommended searches include [The Hobbit Chapter 1 audiobook](#), [the Fellowship of the Ring Chapter 1 audiobook](#), [Treasure Island audiobook](#). Most of the classics (stories that have stood the test of time) as well as a lot of popular books are in audio format on the Net.
- www.readtheory.org
- <http://www.bookadventure.com>
- <http://www.nextup.com/TextAloud/index.html> (This software can turn text into an MP3 format. There is a free trial. Another program like this is available at <http://www.bytecool.com> and is said to be specific to Windows. It also has a free trial.)

WRITING:

- <http://www.spellingcity.com>
- <http://www.funenglishgames.com>
- <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/Dictionary.html> (Includes a picture dictionary and can be organised in different ways e.g. phonetically/ alphabetically. It is a good source of adjectives/adverbs etc. for storytelling.)
- <https://bubbl.us> is a brainstorming site that encourages kids to build on ideas. Similar sites will also be useful.

SPELLING:

<http://www.spellingcentre.com.au>
<http://www.spellingcity.com> (Some parts are free.)
<http://www.literacyplanet.com> (Some parts are free. A free trial month is offered. Some parts are \$14.00 per month.)

GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION:

<http://www.grammarbook.com>
<http://www.grammar-monster.com>
<http://www.funenglishgames.com>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkuuZEey_bs (Alternatively do a search under *Schoolhouse Rock: Grammar unpack your adjectives Music video*. Any *Schoolhouse Rock* video is usually OK.)

NUMERACY

<http://www.mymathsonline.com.au/>

<http://www.mathsisfun.com>

<http://www.thatquiz.org>

<http://amathsdictionaryforkids.com/dictionary.html>

<http://www.studyladder.com.au>

<https://au.ixl.com>