

## Tips for Engaging Students with Textbooks

(Adapted from **Strategies That Work: Teaching Comprehension for Understanding and Engagement** by Stephanie Harvey and Anne Goudvis; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition)

Teach students to do the following things in order to help them get the most out of textbook reading:

- Be selective. Carefully read the smaller sections
- Read the selection during class time so the teacher can guide
- Preview the features, visuals, headings, subheadings, etc. from the chapter
- Identify new vocabulary and teach it along with new concepts
- Slow down the rate of reading
- Use a variety of comprehension strategies to construct meaning from text (activating background knowledge, questioning, determining importance, and synthesizing)
- Stop, think, and react in each section to merge thinking
- Hold thinking with sticky notes and coding of text
- Use think sheets to take notes and hold thinking
- Paraphrase the information
- Use the index to get information quickly
- Turn and talk about the information
- Read and respond to the text with a partner
- Discuss the chapter sections in small groups
- Use a jigsaw to share and report information

**Always define your purpose for reading:**

Is it to answer a central question?

Is it to gather information about a topic?

Is it to compare and contrast issues, ideas or events?

Is it to understand a process or concept?