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## KEY STRATEGIES FOR HELPING Struggling READERS

Adapted From:  
Daniels, Harvey, and Steven Zemelman. *Subjects Matter: Every Teacher's Guide to Content-area Reading*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2004. Print.



### Build Supportive Relationships

**Show students that you care intensely about their reading, believe they can succeed, and won't accept anything less.**

### Model Thoughtful Reading

Use think-alouds, in which the teacher reads aloud and stops to narrate how his/her mind works with the materials (asking questions, making inferences, making connections, monitoring understanding). Struggling readers are too rarely shown the active thinking that more experience readers innately do.

### USE ACTIVITIES THAT BUILD ENGAGEMENT WITH THE TEXT

DRAWING AND ROLE PLAYS, ARGUING POSITION ON REAL-ISSUES, HELPING STUDENTS VISUALIZE THE EVENTS AND SITUATIONS THEY ARE STUDYING, CREATING & COMPLETING GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS, ALL TURN READING FROM A MECHANICAL ACTIVITY THAT KIDS AVOID TO ONE THEY ARE WILLING TO WORK THROUGH.

### Promote Self-Monitoring

*Students can only clarify confusion if they stop to notice when they're confused. Waiting until a teacher tells them they've got it wrong is too late. Readers can be helped to realize when they're having difficulty and show effective ways to get back on track.*

### Use Materials Students Can Successfully Read

Students who have experience repeated failure are only further discouraged when they encounter lots of vocabulary they don't understand. For any given topic, providing materials at a variety of levels helps avoid this teaching trap.

### PROVIDE BOOKS AND ARTICLES ON TAPE

**LISTENING TO, AS WELL AS MAKING TAPED READINGS, CONNECTS STUDENTS TO THE PRINTED WORD WITH THE HUMAN VOICE THAT GIVES IT LIFE IN EVERY SUBJECT.**