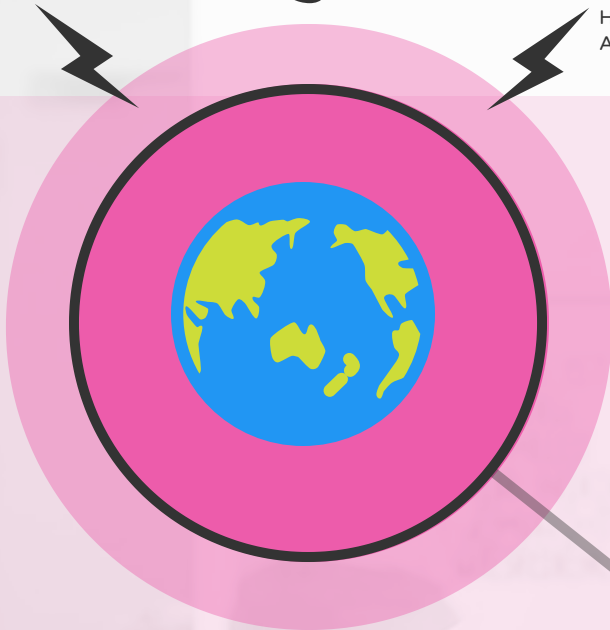


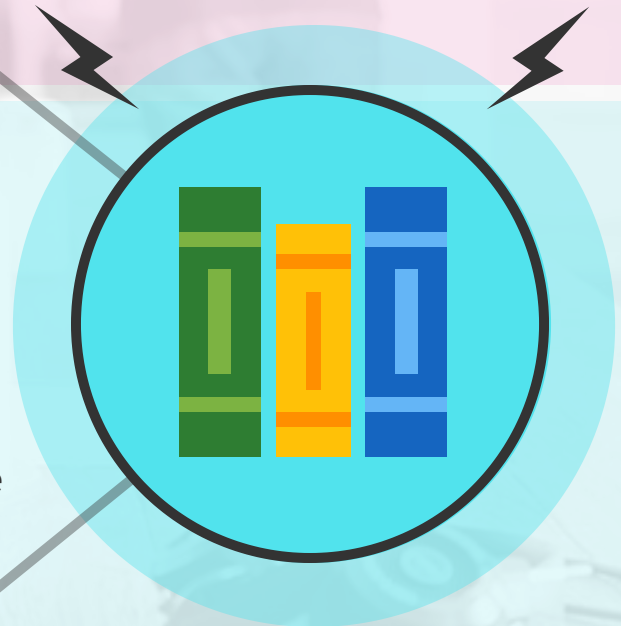
# Reading Comprehension Requires Knowledge: Avoiding the 4th Grade Slump

Hirsch, E.D. Jr. "Reading Comprehension Require Knowledge-- of Words and the World." American Educator. 2003.



## Fluency

Students need to be able to decode quickly while reading so they don't forget the material. They will overcome the limitations of memory by understanding the type of text, the words they're reading, and grammar of the sentence structures. In order to improve comprehension, help make connections between new and old content.



## Vocabulary

Early-life introduction to words adds to a student's vocabulary and provides an advantage to future comprehension skills. Most vocabulary growth occurs incidentally in everyday life. Immerse your students into learning new words by using them in both lessons and normal communication around the classroom. Having a mature vocabulary will greatly improve reading comprehension abilities.



## Knowledge

Basic topic knowledge allows readers to understand word combinations and decide on possible word meanings for new vocabulary. This can give meaning to otherwise confusing sentences and provide a basis for students to create inferences. Prepare students for new readings by introducing them to the topic before the reading.