**“Comprehension Work”**

What is comprehension? It is the understanding of what is read, the ability to retell a story, answer various questions, and to pull out important information. Both fiction and non-fiction texts are important to use for comprehension work. It is just as important to note take and be able to navigate a non-fiction piece as it is to read and retell a fiction story. The following are questions that I use with the students to work on comprehension skills. I encourage you to ask your child at least one or two of these questions for any book they read to keep them constantly thinking about what they are reading.

Fiction Questions:

* What is the setting?
* Who are the main characters?
* What is the title and who is the author?
* What was your favourite part?
* How did it end?
* What happened in the story? In the beginning? In the middle? In the end?

Non-Fiction Questions:

* What information do I want to share?
* What would I like to know more about?
* Where could I go to learn more information?
* What topic does the author write about?
* What information did I learn?
* What was interesting about this book?

The hardest skill is being able to pull out just the **most important** facts or story elements. Please encourage this, as that is what I stress at school when we fill in story maps or do note taking practice. For some children, this is easy. For others, they really struggle to use **their own wording** to retell. Please make sure your child uses their own language when retelling, not just reading directly from the book – the first line for beginning events, the middle of the book for middle events, and the last line for ending events. Believe me, some students do resort to this until they are actually shown how to pull out the important events that happen at the beginning, the middle, and at the end of a story.