

The relationship between prior knowledge and reading is obviously reciprocal. Making conscious what is already known helps the reader link new information with what is already known – make connections, increase the ability to make inferences, improve recall of content, view and reconcile conflicting information, interpret text and absorb new information (Kujawa and Huske, 1995; Pressley, 2000). Prior knowledge enhances comprehension by enabling readers to comprehend text better, to make connections, to predict, and to develop inferences as they are reading. When reading fiction, readers may activate prior knowledge by browsing the text to use one or more of the following browsing activities to activate background knowledge.