

UNDERSTANDING WHAT WE READ

Reading is understanding. Whether we are reading to learn or for enjoyment, our mind is constantly working out the meaning of what we read. Sometimes the meaning is obvious, it is directly stated. At other times a little more thought is needed to work it out.

Type of Comprehension (understanding)	What is is...
Literal	Understanding information that is directly stated in a text.
Inferential	Working out suggested meaning by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - connecting clues and information from different parts of the text. - connecting clues and information from the text with your knowledge.
Evaluative	Forming our own thoughts and ideas by connecting information/events from the text with your own knowledge and experiences.

Here is someone's recount of their experience at the Royal Melbourne Show

This year was the first time I went to the show, I couldn't believe the amount of things there. When we arrived, it was hard to know what to do first. Mum suggested we buy our showbags last so we didn't have to carry them around, so we ended up starting with the animals. I had never been up close to a goat or a cow before. I didn't anticipate how coarse the goats' hair was going to be when I pat it, or how smelly the cows would be.

There were so many things to choose from for lunch, that it took longer to pick than to actually eat. We all chose different things, but all equally enjoyed what we had. All of the food was absolutely delicious, far better than what we normally have at home!

I could only choose three rides to go on, and that was also difficult. I ended up picking them lucky dip, by closing my eyes and pointing to them on the rides list. The ferris wheel was my favourite, as I could see the whole show, it looked so different from above.

I really hope we go to the show again next year, there is so much I didn't get to do!

Now, let's look at some statements about the text...

This was the first time she went to the show.	Literal - "This year was the first time I went to the show"
The food was delicious.	Literal - "All of the food was absolutely delicious"
She enjoyed the show.	Inferential - doesn't directly state this, but there are clues. It was hard to choose what ride and what food, they want to go back next year.
She went on the ferris wheel.	Inferential - Doesn't directly state they went on the ferris wheel, but does say it was their favourite ride.
I think I would enjoy going to the show.	Evaluative - The reader has connected what they read with their knowledge about what kind of things they enjoy to decide they would probably like to go there.