

# What Good Readers Do

## **How good readers figure out new words:**

- They look at the letters and letter clusters and think about the sounds they represent.
- They think about the sound of each part of the word, then blend these sounds together.
- They look for smaller words within the word.
- They think about the meaning of the sentence, along with the letters of the unfamiliar word, to help them figure out a word that would fit and make sense.

## **How good readers make sure they understand what they are reading:**

- They monitor their reading and notice when something doesn't make sense to them.
- When they don't understand something, they stop and reread to see if they can clarify the meaning.
- They read on, looking for more information that will help them understand.
- They ask for help when they need it.
- They make predictions while they are reading. ("I think this character is going to...")
- They ask themselves questions while they read. ("I wonder why he did that?")
- They make connections between what they are reading and their own lives. ("This reminds me of..." or, "The same thing happened to me once!")
- They look for important information and pay extra attention when they find it.
- They slow down their reading if they need to.

