# Effective Scaffolding for Complex Text

Appropriate scaffolds need to be in place to support students as they productively struggle when working through text. Scaffolds can be slowly scaled back as students grow in their independent reading skills.

**USING STAIR-STEP TEXTS** increases students' comprehension of texts with greater complexity. They also are more likely to retain important information that overlaps multiple texts.

**TRIGGERING MOTIVATION** allows for student choice and lets them explore their passions.

**TEACHING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES,** such as text-dependent questions and formative assessment strategies support deeper engagement with the text.

**ENGAGING IN CLOSE READING** allows students to annotate a short piece of rich text through multiple readings, guided through text-based questions and discussion.

**BUILDING FLUENCY** provides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension.

**FINDING TEXT COHERENCE** helps students focus on how the author links ideas together to create coherence.

**UNPACKING SYNTAX** improves fluency and comprehension of complex texts.

**DEVELOPING VOCABULARY** through reading a series of texts on a topic unlocks content.

**BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND ACCESSING PRIOR KNOWLEDGE** builds a reservoir of knowledge for students to access when reading more complex texts on that topic.

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