

Moving from Paragraph Level to Increasingly Longer Sections of Text

To help students improve their comprehension, it is important for them to interact with the text. Stopping after reading a shorter segment gives students an opportunity to check their understanding.

One method to scaffold students as they move from the paragraph level to increasingly longer sections of text is to break the entire text into shorter, more manageable segments. Students stop reading after a section of text to reflect on what they have read.

To break the text into sections, first review the text to determine how it should be divided.

- Expository textbooks are often easily divided by using subheadings as the natural breaks. Science and math texts can also be divided with problems or exercises.
- Narrative text is a little more challenging because of the lack of headings/subheadings. Narrative prose can be divided into sections by paragraphs, stanzas, scenes, chapters, sections, end of the page, or any obvious break.
- Transition words, examples, subject change, dialogue, and sometimes punctuation can also be useful indicators for dividing sections of text.

After reading the section of text, students can more easily identify the main idea and details of the passage.

While learning to use this strategy, students should write the main idea and details. Once students have reached mastery, they can use this strategy to monitor their understanding independently.