

Celebrate examples of success

9C – Celebrate examples of pupils who have used the strategies successfully

Praise can be helpful in building pupils' motivation and sense of self-efficacy, but must be sincere and built on the back of their genuine success. Praise can also help to promote desired behaviours within a group, especially if it is specific.

By celebrating examples of pupils who have used reading strategies successfully, we can reward them for their work as well as promoting desirable approaches to reading within the class. By being as specific as possible in our praise, and highlighting where and why pupils have been successful, we can make their approaches concrete and tangible to others.

If pupils are practising fluent reading (4A), we could praise their prosody, clarity and intonation, perhaps asking the class to listen to an effective section of the reading, celebrating specific successful moments: 'the way you read this section was excellent – the pace was exactly right, and you really emphasised these words which helped to get across...'

We might come across a pupil using their etymology knowledge (5C) to understand a new word. For example, when introducing the word communism in a Year 9 history lesson, a pupil may ask if there is a relation to the word community. Here we would want to celebrate their 'word-consciousness,' and the way they have seen a pattern across the two words. We could then ask further questions to make the links between the two words clear. We want the class to see that this is a helpful strategy that can help them build their vocabulary.

We ask pupils to do different things to support their comprehension during and after reading, such as independent annotation (4C) or structured summaries (8A). We could celebrate these by putting the article or exercise book under the visualiser for the whole class to see. Rather than generic praise like 'Well done, you did a great job,' we should be as specific as possible: 'Well done, this is an excellent summary because it contained these four key ideas – it also captured how the different events contributed to the revolution, which was the main focus of the article.'

Ultimately, celebrating these examples will not only motivate and reward pupils, but will also help to make successful deployment of the strategies both visible and concrete.