What is Reading Comprehension? 

Reading comprehension refers to children’s ability to understand what they read. Reading is all about making meaning. When young children are learning to read, they need to do more than just sound out the words to make meaning. Reading comprehension involves thinking about a book and fully understanding the story or information.

**Literal Thinking:**  
Ideas that can be Found in the Book

- Names of characters
- Events in a story
- The setting, or where the story takes place
- Important facts
- Topics included

**Inferential Thinking:**  
Ideas that go Beyond the Book

- Characters’ thoughts
- Characters’ emotions
- The author’s opinion
- The author’s message
- A lesson learned
- A theme, or big idea, in the text.