Synthesize

When you synthesize, you combine what you are reading with what you already know. By continually synthesizing while you read, your understanding increases and you gain new perspectives or achieve insight. Sometimes it is important to stop and think about what you read, even reread a section to improve your understanding.

Things to consider:

- Access your prior knowledge of the topic. Think about what you already know about the topic before you read and as you read reflect on how the text adds to our knowledge.

- Make connections between ideas within the text. For example, if an opinion is stated in the text, be sure to look for examples of support later in the text. Be sure to make the connections between the opinion and the support and think about how it influences your understanding and whether your opinions have changed.

- Compare and contrast ideas in the current text with other texts (text to text connections). Ask yourself does the text confirm, contradict or challenge what I know from other readings?

- Consider how different parts of the text fit together. Look for relationships between characters, setting, and events within the story are connected which can greatly increase your understanding.