



# Strategies for Improving Reading Comprehension

*A hands-on workshop for teachers and administrators*

**Grades K-4  
Workshop  
Presented by**

**Debbie  
Miller**



*Nationally Known Consultant and  
Author of Reading with Meaning*

**Grades 5-12  
Workshop  
Presented by**

**Cris  
Tovani**



*Nationally Known Consultant and  
Author of I Read it, But I Don't Get It*

## Learn Practical Strategies for:

- Enabling your students to become thoughtful, independent, and strategic readers
- Creating a climate and culture of thinking and learning
- Providing effective strategy instruction with students who have a wide range of needs, interests, and abilities

*Choose any of these one-day workshops from the following dates and locations:*

**Debbie Miller – grades K-4:**

**Mount Laurel** Monday, October 27, 2003

**Clark** Tuesday, October 28, 2003

**Cris Tovani – grades 5-12:**

**Clark** Thursday, October 23, 2003

**Cherry Hill** Friday, October 24, 2003

*Receive 5 professional development hours. Staff Development Workshops is a NJ registered professional development provider (#4289).*

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among colleagues**

# Program Highlights:

**Learn** practical strategies for providing explicit instruction, and for gradually releasing responsibility to your students

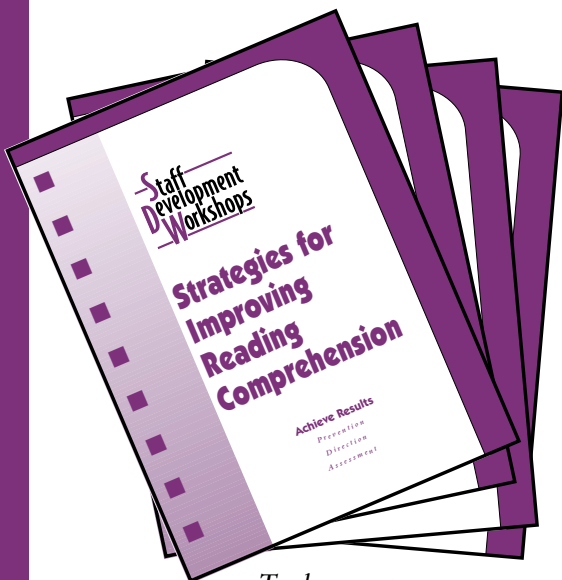
**Develop** readers who actively and independently monitor and regulate their own comprehension

**See** modeled strategy lessons for inferring, asking questions, making connections, determining importance in text, creating mental images, and synthesizing information

**Find** out how to successfully develop book clubs as a way for students to share their thinking

**Implement** these strategies with the materials you are currently using in your classroom

**Receive** an extensive packet of hand-outs



*Teacher resources will be on display.*

## Plus specific techniques for:

- Creating a collaborative learning environment
- Making your reading/thinking process visible to students
- Improving classroom discussion
- Gradually releasing responsibility for using each strategy
- Asking significant questions to encourage in-depth reading
- Creating anchor charts that children can refer to, add to, or change over the course of a year
- Demonstrating how one strategy can build on another
- Creating a common language for discussing books and ideas both in and out of the classroom
- Conferring with students effectively
- Teaching the reader, not the reading
- Implementing strategies in other curricular areas
- Teaching students how to “hold their thinking” and remember what they read

**Motivate your students to love reading**

**Improve test scores**

**Raise the level of literature response groups in your classroom**

## Special Benefits of Attending

- Receive an extensive handbook containing strategies for improving reading comprehension
- Learn about many available teacher resources and materials for students
- Meet continuing education requirements
- Teachers individual concerns will be addressed on a one-to-one basis

# Achieve these results:

## Instruction:

- Show students how to reason strategically as they interpret, analyze, and appreciate what they read
- Model strategy lessons for inferring, asking questions, making connections, determining importance in text, creating mental images, and synthesizing information
- Implement teaching tips and ideas that benefit struggling readers as well as proficient and advanced readers
- Create collaborative learning environments to enhance comprehension and enjoyment
- Balance explicit instruction with lots of time for application

## Assessment:

- Involve students in their own assessment
- Ensure that students are using and applying the strategies that you are teaching

## About the presenters:

### Debbie Miller

has taught primary grades in the Denver Public Schools for thirty years. She was most recently at Slavens Elementary School, where Happy Reading! – three videos that accompany her book, *Reading with Meaning*,



were taped. Debbie wrote about teaching and learning with her students at Slavens in her book *Reading with Meaning*. In her book and tapes, Debbie takes you beyond comprehension instruction, and shows how she sustains a thoughtful primary reading program that challenges and supports readers of all abilities and needs. Debbie and her students were also recently featured in the professional development video series *Strategy Instruction in Action* (Harvey and Goudvis, Stenhouse 2002)



Now a staff developer with the Denver-based Public Education and Business Coalition and a Development Advisor with the Cornerstone Literacy Initiative, Debbie also works extensively as a private consultant with schools and districts on long-range planning and development of literacy programs.

Ellin Oliver Keene, author of *Mosaic of Thought*, says “Debbie articulates like no other teacher I’ve known what matters most in primary teaching and learning. She makes the indescribable world of young learners clear and real. In *Reading with Meaning*, Debbie not only provides conclusive evidence that young children can think strategically when reading, she causes us to rethink every assumption we ever had about what young children can do. She shows us how children have an almost infinite ability to understand and discuss even the most abstract ideas. In this book, which I believe will become a classic in literacy teaching and learning, Debbie Miller defines and describes the instruction, and she tells about the children’s successes. But there is always magic in the mix, a little mystique, a bit of fun, a lot of joy.”

### Cris Tovani

taught elementary school for ten years before becoming a high school reading specialist and English teacher. A nationally known consultant, she chooses to continue teaching high school students full-time. She has also worked for many years as a staff developer for the Denver-based Public Education and Business Coalition (PEBC), the consortium that has received national acclaim for its work in reading comprehension reform. Her book “*I Read It, But I Don’t Get It*”, and her new video series by Stenhouse, has helped thousands of teachers nationwide improve their instruction in reading comprehension.



Ellin Oliver Keene, author of *Mosaic of Thought*, says, “Cris is a teacher of teachers as well as of kids. Building on research that clearly defines thinking strategies proficient readers use to comprehend, Cris shows how she has taught kids to probe more deeply, think more profoundly, reflect, and struggle for insight.



Cris teaches us that kids of any age and background who are treated with respect, trusted to be brilliant, and shown how to be more proficient readers and writers, will dramatically surpass our highest expectations.”

**Bring a workshop to your school.  
Call 866-367-8030 for information.**

Visit our website at  
**[www.sdworkshops.org](http://www.sdworkshops.org)**  
to see a complete list of topics  
and speakers which can be  
brought to your school.

# Reading Comprehension

Please check the location and the date that you will attend

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**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

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**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL** \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITION** \_\_\_\_\_ **GRADE** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

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## METHOD OF PAYMENT

Please check off one of the following

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$145**

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## 4 WAYS TO REGISTER

1. Mail registration form to:  
**Staff Development Workshops**  
1427 14th Street  
Lakewood, NJ 08701
2. Fax:  
**732-370-4978**
3. Online:  
**www.sdworkshops.org**
4. Phone:  
**732-367-8030**  
**866-367-8030**

**Further Questions:**  
Call SDW at 732-367-8030  
or email at [info@sdworkshops.org](mailto:info@sdworkshops.org)



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## Registration Information

- **FEE** - \$145 per person. **Group Rate** is \$135 per person when five or more people register at the same time. *No confirmation will be sent. Your cancelled check or credit card statement will be your receipt.*
- **CANCELLATIONS** one week prior to the workshop date, will be refunded less a \$15.00 cancellation fee. Later cancellations will receive credit towards an upcoming workshop. Substitutions are allowed at any time.  
  
If workshop is cancelled due to inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled. Refunds will not be granted, but we will issue credit towards a future workshop.
- **PAYMENT** is due prior to the workshop. Fee includes seminar registration, a personalized certificate of attendance, refreshments, and a resource handbook. On-site registration is available, if space allows. Please call ahead to check on space availability.

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**8:00-8:30** Registration, Refreshments  
**8:30-3:00** Workshop (*lunch on your own*)

## MEETING SITES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Please make your own hotel reservations directly with the hotel. For directions please call hotel or visit hotel website.

**Mount Laurel** – Ramada: 555 Fellowship Rd  
856-273-1900 • [www.the.ramada.com/mountlaurel02174](http://www.the.ramada.com/mountlaurel02174)

**Clark** – Crowne Plaza: 36 Valley Rd.  
732-574-0100 • [www.crowneplaza.com/clarknj](http://www.crowneplaza.com/clarknj)

**Cherry Hill** – Clarion Hotel: 1450 Rte. 70W  
856-428-2300 • [www.clarionofcherryhill.com](http://www.clarionofcherryhill.com)