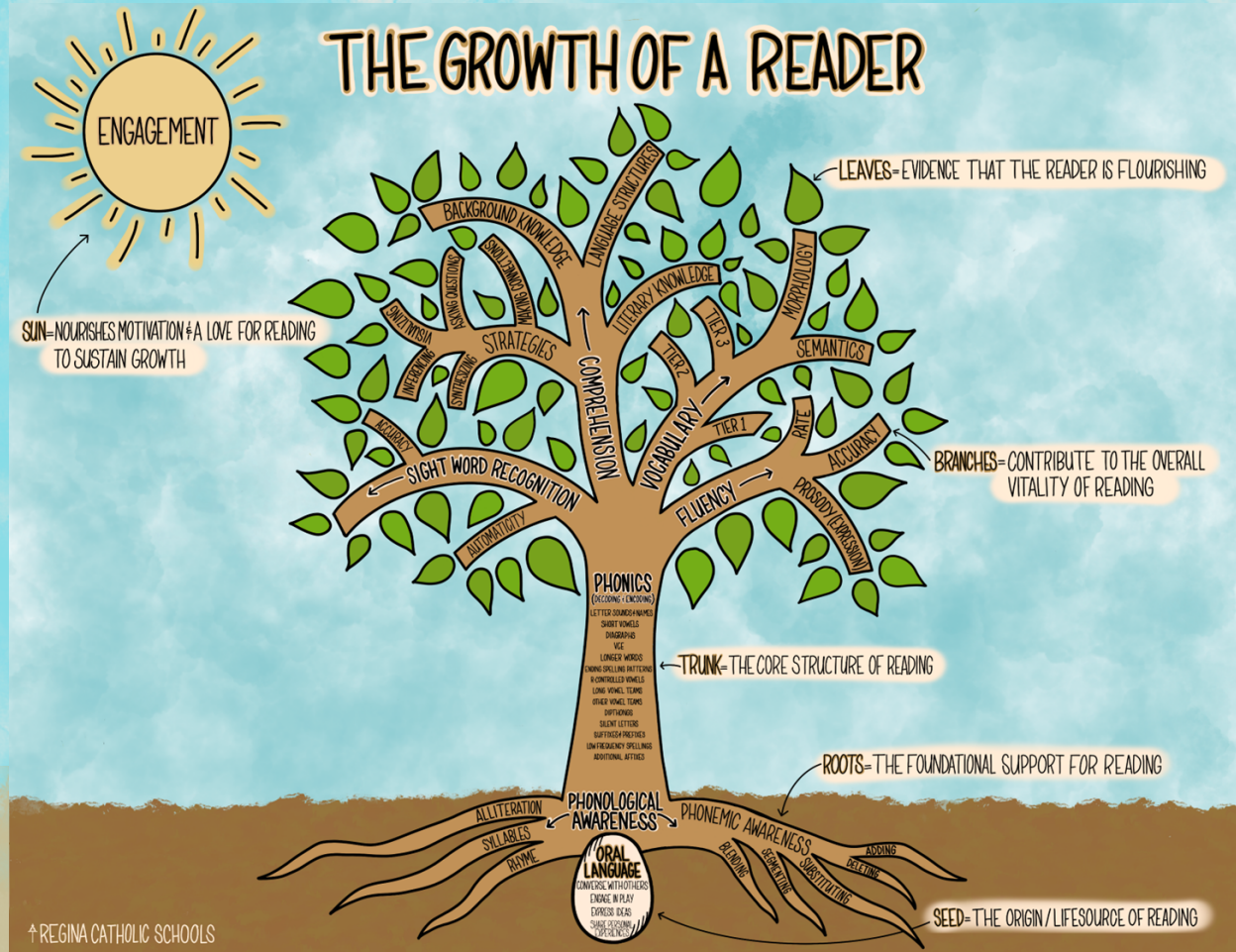
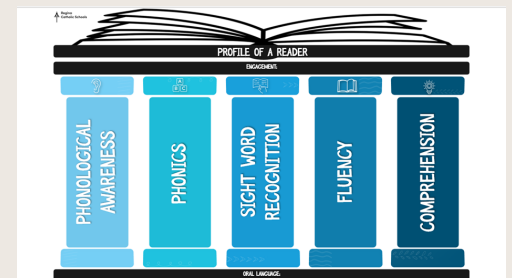




Decades of research has identified some critical areas of reading instruction:

- Phonological Awareness
- Phonics (decoding)
- Sight Word Recognition
- Fluency
- Comprehension (and vocabulary)



How can we teach all students to read accurately, rapidly, and with comprehension by the end of third grade? We use these critical components to guide our instruction.



What is Phonological Awareness?

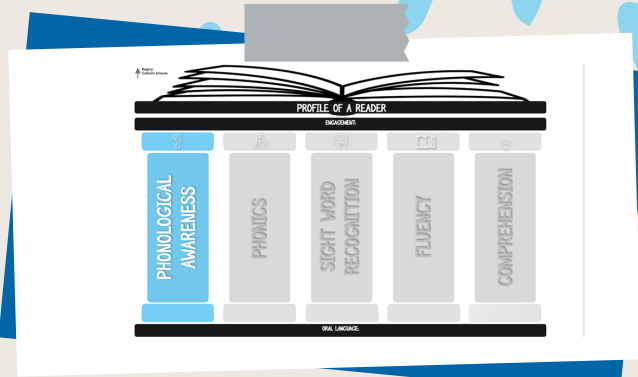
Phonological awareness is the ability to “play with” the sound structures in oral language (e.g., rhyming).

Phonemic awareness is part of phonological awareness. This is the ability to manipulate individual phonemes in spoken words.

- All words are made up of a sequence of individual sounds called **phonemes**.
- A **phoneme** is the smallest unit of sound within spoken words (e.g., cat has three phonemes: c-a-t; shoe has two phonemes: sh-u).

When students become skilled in phoneme manipulation, they can

- teach themselves new words, and
- put words into sight word memory for effortless retrieval.



What is Phonics?

Phonics is what we use to decode words. We understand the relationship between the sounds we hear in words and the letters that spell them. Using phonics, we match the sounds of spoken English with single letters or groups of letters. As an example, the sound /k/ can be spelled as c, k, ck or ch.

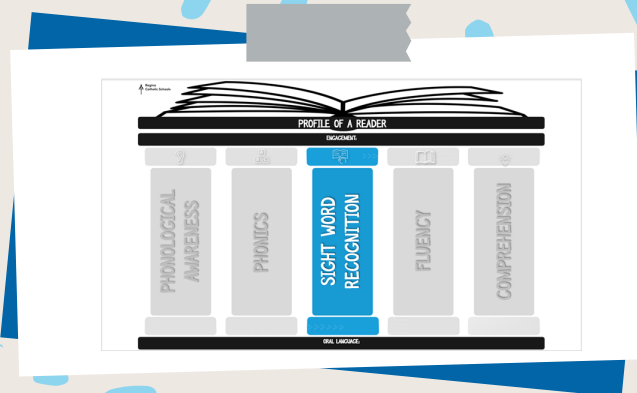
Phonics teaches the **alphabetic principle** – the relationship between letters and spoken language sounds. When children understand this relationship (that spoken words are made up of individual sounds and that letters represent those sounds), they have the foundation of reading.

Understanding phonics allows students to decode. Decoding is the act of sounding out words using knowledge of letter-sound relationships and letter patterns.

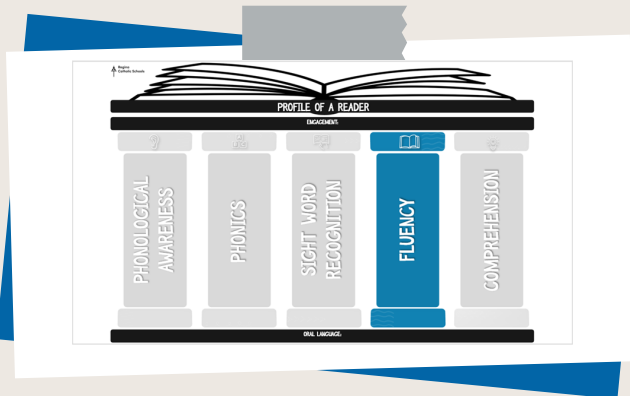


What is Sight Word Recognition?

Did you know that literate adults have a library of 30,000 to 70,000 words they can read automatically, accurately, and effortlessly? These words are considered **sight words** because we instantly recognize them by sight. This library of sight words is called your **sight word memory**.



What is Fluency?



Fluency is the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression. When students cannot recognize words accurately and automatically, fluency suffers. In turn, reading comprehension is often affected.

Fluent readers read with automaticity, without struggling to decode each word. When students read with 98% accuracy, their fluency and confidence increase. This results in higher reading engagement and better comprehension.

Learning to decode and read accurately is essential to reading fluently.

What is Comprehension?

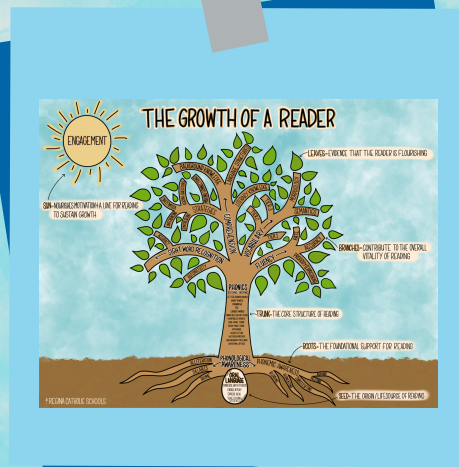
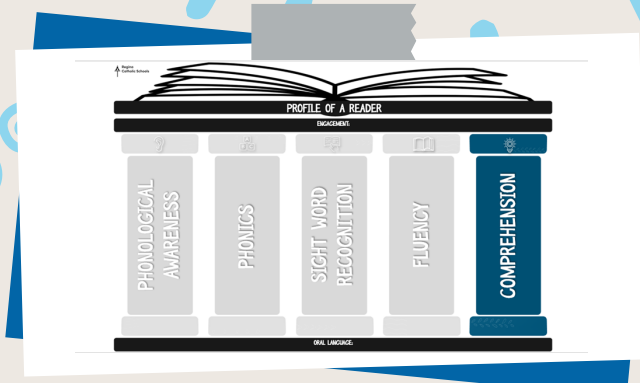
Comprehension is understanding and interpreting what we read.

Building a strong vocabulary is an essential component of reading comprehension.

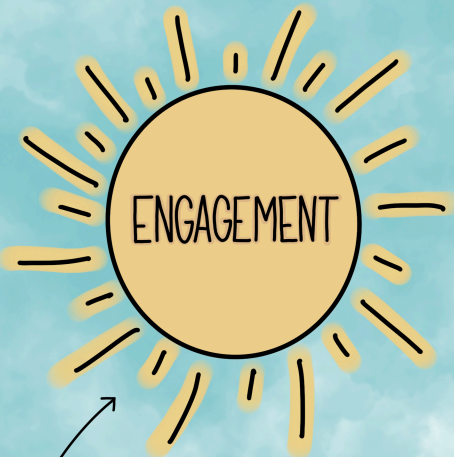
Our **reading vocabulary** has three types of vocabulary words:

- Tier 1 Words - basic words used by most students in everyday conversation (e.g., cat, teacher)
- Tier 2 Words - more complex words in text (e.g., adequate, peculiar)
- Tier 3 Words - low-frequency words, genre, or subject-specific words (e.g., in mathematics, numerator and quadrilateral)

To accurately comprehend written material, students must be able to decode what they read, understand the vocabulary, and then make connections and think critically about what they have read.



THE GROWTH OF A READER



ENGAGEMENT

SUN=NOURISHES MOTIVATION & A LOVE FOR READING
TO SUSTAIN GROWTH

