

GET THE Picture

Use movies to help your child create mental models.
It will help him or her tackle challenging books.



READ 180 students are already familiar with the use of video to create mental models.

Every time they begin a new topic segment in the *READ 180* topic software, they watch a video. The video provides background information about the topic. Then they read short passages about the topic. And the video they just watched helps them to picture what they are reading about. As a parent, you can provide your child with a similar experience at home.

Here are a few videos that may tie in with the material your child is learning at school:

- **Winged Migration:** In this film, airborne cameras track flocks of migrating birds. The narrator speaks over spectacular visuals. He describes migration in easy-to-understand terms.
- **Families of Korea:** This visit to South Korea focuses on the lives of two families. One lives on a farm. The other lives in a city. We watch them go about their everyday school and home activities. The differences between the two families are striking!
- **Mad Hot Ballroom:** This is the story of some New York City fifth graders who love to dance. They take ballroom dance classes. Then they compete in a citywide dance challenge. It is a great study of hard work, hopes, and dreams. It also shows how kids handle it when they don't get the results they had hoped for.
- **Dear America:** These are video adaptations of a popular book series. They let your child experience American history. The stories are told through the eyes of kids and teens from various times and places.
- **Royal Diaries:** Imagine if you could read the private journal of a real-life teen queen! These videos are also adapted from books. They give a peek into the young lives of famous royalty. Subjects include Cleopatra and Elizabeth I.

So go ahead. Pop some popcorn. Turn on a video. And start building mental models.

Many struggling readers have trouble in science, history, and social studies classes. As readers, they have mastered the ability to decode words. But they cannot understand the meaning behind the words they are decoding.

What might be happening? Researchers suggest these students cannot create mental models — or pictures — of what they are reading about. They may be able to get through every word on a page. But when they reach the end of a page, they seem confused. The look in their eyes clearly says, “I have no idea what I am reading.” How do we help them to create better mental models of the texts they read?

The answer may be on your computer or in your DVD player. Video is a powerful way to provide mental models. Studies have proven it. If you provide your child with a video model before tackling text, his or her chance of comprehending that text will more than double.