

# FOCUS

“The general finding is that when readers are given cognitive strategy instruction, they make significant gains on measures of reading and comprehension over students trained with conventional instruction procedures”

– U.S. National Reading Panel

## Reading Comprehension Series

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### ▼ FOCUS Overview

FOCUS Reading Comprehension is a series designed for on-level readers who need repeated practice, for struggling readers, and for English language learners (ELL). This reading-strategy series provides practice for students who are reading at 1.0–8.9 reading levels.

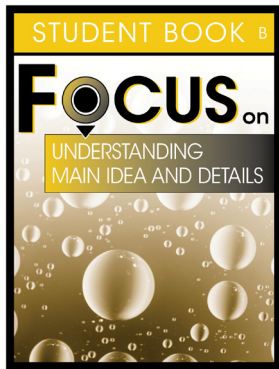
FOCUS centres on brief instruction and concentrated practice with targeted reading strategies. The series focuses on the higher-order reading strategies with which struggling readers need extensive practice. The selections in the series span curriculum content areas and each student book has twenty selections with which students can practise a specific reading strategy. These selection are followed by comprehension questions that require students to apply their focused reading strategy.

FOCUS is supported by current research regarding reading instruction of English-language readers and struggling readers.

### Summary

- Each student book focuses on one of six reading comprehension strategies.
- Books A–H correspond to year levels 1–8.
- Each of the 20 lessons are preceded by a brief instructional section and a preview.
- Tracking charts allow students to monitor their progress.
- Student self-assessments follow every five lessons.

### ▼ FOCUS Strategies ▼



The series covers six reading comprehension strategies – one per title at each of the eight reading levels (A–H):

Understanding Main Idea and Details

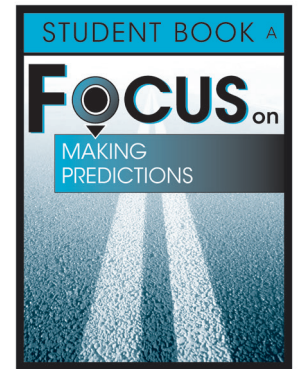
Understanding Sequence

Recognising Cause and Effect

Comparing and Contrasting

Making Predictions

Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences



### ▼ FOCUS Research ▼

FOCUS is grounded in well-researched teaching and learning strategies ensuring that teachers engage students with an educationally sound reading-practice program. The program solidifies comprehension with review and practice in the six key reading strategies. With repeated practice and exposure, students become automatic in their ability to use reading strategies.

Each *Student Book*  
Features:

- **Learn About** – overview with instruction and modelling
- **Lesson Preview** – guided practice with scaffolding, plus sample questions with correct and incorrect responses for discussion
- **20 Independent Practice Lessons**
- **Student Tracking Chart**
- **5 Self-Assessments**

# FOCUS Learn About

Before the lessons begin, there is the two-page **Learn About** section. This sample lesson provides basic instruction and modelling in the understanding and application of the reading strategy as well as problems similar to the ones in the practice lessons.

**Learn About**  
*Understanding Main Idea and Details*

The **main idea** is the most important idea in a passage, or piece of writing. The main idea tells what the passage is *mostly about*. Every passage has a main idea. Each paragraph in a passage also has a main idea.

**Details** are pieces of information that *tell about* the main idea. Details explain the main idea. They tell who, what, when, where, why or how. Details can describe a person, place or thing. Details can tell about the order in which events happen. Details can also explain how to do something.

Read this passage. Find the main idea and the details that tell more about the main idea.

Our dog, Muffin, is very talented. When Muffin was a puppy, she went to a special school. There she learned to come when called. A few months later, my brother taught her to roll over on command. Just yesterday, I taught Muffin to shake paws. It took her only 15 minutes. What a smart dog she is!

The main idea of the passage about Muffin is that she is very talented. It is stated in the first sentence. A main idea may be stated in other parts of a passage, too. Or it may not be directly stated at all. If the main idea is not stated, ask yourself questions like these: "What is this passage mostly about? What is the most important idea?"

The details in the passage about Muffin explain why she is talented. They tell three things that she can do. She can come when called. She can roll over on command. She can shake paws.

The passage about Muffin has one paragraph. Other passages might have more than one paragraph. Still, the whole passage has a main idea. And each paragraph in the passage also has a main idea.

**Remember!**  
The main idea is what the passage is mostly about. Details are pieces of information that tell about the main idea.

## Summary

- Two-page Learn About section.
- Gives concise direct instruction.
- Introduces the strategy.
- Includes a strategy summary of important ideas.
- Supplies graphic organiser that represents the text structure specific to each reading strategy

## FOCUS Lesson Preview

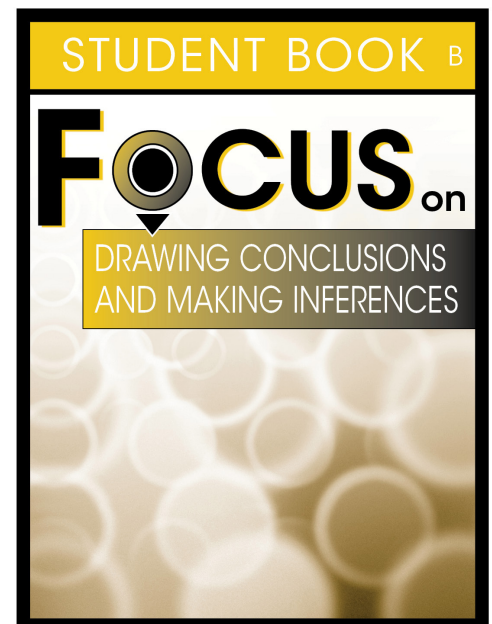
Following the **Learn About** section is a two-page lesson preview. The **Lesson Preview** includes a sample reading passage and two selected-response questions with explanations of why each of the eight answer choices is correct or not. The **Lesson Preview** should be read, worked through and discussed to ensure students understand how to answer strategy-based questions.

## FOCUS Tracking Chart

Student can monitor their progress by completing the **Tracking Chart**. The **Tracking Chart** is useful in helping student take responsibility for their learning and in setting goals for themselves.

## FOCUS Self Assessment

After every five **FOCUS** lessons, students complete a self-assessment. These self-assessments allow students to focus on reading strategies and not simply on how many questions they answered correctly or incorrectly. Self-assessments further allow students to voice any concerns they might have about their work in private, make an excellent addition to portfolios and are a valuable resource for student-teacher conferencing.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

# ▼ FOCUS Independent Practice Lessons ▼

Each **FOCUS** lesson contains one reading passage, four strategy-based selected response questions and one strategy-based constructed-response writing question.

## Lesson 14

Read these biographies of two writers. As you read, think about how the two writers are alike and how they are different. Look for clue words.

Answer these questions about the biographies.



### The Lives of Two Australian Writers

Tim Winton and Nick Earls have many things in common. Both are Australian writers. Both have written books for young readers as well as adults.

Tim Winton was born in Perth in 1960. He still lives in Western Australia today. His father was a policeman. Tim used to enjoy listening to his work stories. But sometimes they scared him so much that he couldn't sleep. His grandmother lived in a tent out the back of a suburban house. Tim Winton knew he wanted to be a writer when he was about ten years old. He had his first book published when he was at university.

Tim Winton has written over twenty books for adults and young readers. But he is probably best known to Australian kids for the Lockie Leonard books. This character reflects Tim's love of surfing and the outdoors.

Nick Earls lives in Brisbane. He moved to Australia from Northern Ireland when he was eight years old. When he was growing up he wanted to be a cricketer or a rock star. It took him a while to find out that he wasn't very good at cricket. It took him a bit longer to work out that only knowing three guitar chords wasn't enough to be a rock star. He became a doctor for a little while instead. But he gave it all up because writing was more fun. He had his first book published when he was still a student.

Nick Earls often writes about normal people living in normal Australian suburbs. His gift is being able to see the funny side of daily life. His characters are usually smart but awkward young people finding their own place in the world. Adults as well as young people have read and loved his books.



1. Both Tim Winton and Nick Earls

- Ⓐ were born in Australia.
- Ⓑ grew up in Perth.
- Ⓒ wanted to be rock stars.
- Ⓓ had their first books published when they were still students.

3. In the first paragraph, which clue word signals how the two writers are alike?

- Ⓐ same
- Ⓑ both
- Ⓒ like
- Ⓓ different

2. One way in which the two writers are different is that

- Ⓐ Tim Winton was good at cricket, but Nick Earls was better at music.
- Ⓑ Tim Winton was born in Australia, but Nick Earls moved here when he was a kid.
- Ⓒ Nick Earls lived in a tent in his backyard, but Tim Winton grew up in Northern Ireland.
- Ⓓ Nick's father was a policeman, but Tim's was a doctor.

4. Unlike Lockie Leonard, a surfer who loves the outdoors, Nick's characters tend to be

- Ⓐ normal people living in normal suburbs.
- Ⓑ rock stars.
- Ⓒ policemen.
- Ⓓ ordinary people who discover they have super powers.

5. List two ways in which Tim Winton and Nick Earls are alike and two ways in which they are different. Use clue words.

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# ▼ FOCUS Teacher Guide and Assessments ▼

The Teacher Guide provides all the information needed to use FOCUS effectively. Each Teacher Guide includes an introduction to the series and its features, and provides an explanation of the self-assessments and teacher assessments.

Each Teacher Guide also includes a research summary with a full bibliography that highlights the current educational research the series is based on.

Teacher Guides further provide answer keys, with answers to selected-response questions and sample answers for the constructed-response items.

Reproducible teacher assessments are also available in the Teacher Guides.

## Summary

- Includes an introduction to the FOCUS program.
- Features an explanation of self-assessments and teacher assessments.
- Includes research summary.
- Features an answer key with answers to selected-response questions and sample answers for constructed response.
- Includes reproducible teacher assessments.



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# FOCUS On Reading – PRICE LIST

UNDERSTANDING MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS						
Book	Student Books			Teacher Guides		
	Code	Price (Set of 5)	Qty	Code	Price (Set of 5)	Qty
A	CA10151	\$43.95		CA101519	\$15.35	
B	CA10152	\$43.95		CA101529	\$15.35	
C	CA10153	\$43.95		CA101539	\$15.35	
D	CA10154	\$43.95		CA101549	\$15.35	
E	CA10155	\$43.95		CA101559	\$15.35	
F	CA10266	\$43.95		CA102669	\$15.35	
G	CA10267	\$43.95		CA102679	\$15.35	
H	CA10268	\$43.95		CA102689	\$15.35	

COMPARING AND CONTRASTING						
Book	Student Books			Teacher Guides		
	Code	Price (Set of 5)	Qty	Code	Price (Set of 5)	Qty
A	CA10141	\$43.95		CA101419	\$15.35	
B	CA10142	\$43.95		CA101429	\$15.35	
C	CA10143	\$43.95		CA101439	\$15.35	
D	CA10144	\$43.95		CA101449	\$15.35	
E	CA10145	\$43.95		CA101459	\$15.35	
F	CA10260	\$43.95		CA102609	\$15.35	
G	CA10261	\$43.95		CA102619	\$15.35	
H	CA10262	\$43.95		CA102629	\$15.35	

UNDERSTANDING SEQUENCE						
Book	Student Books			Teacher Guides		
	Code	Price (Set of 5)	Qty	Code	Price (Set of 5)	Qty
A	CA10166	\$43.95		CA101669	\$15.35	
B	CA10167	\$43.95		CA101679	\$15.35	
C	CA10168	\$43.95		CA101689	\$15.35	
D	CA10169	\$43.95		CA101699	\$15.35	
E	CA10170	\$43.95		CA101709	\$15.35	
F	CA10275	\$43.95		CA102759	\$15.35	
G	CA10276	\$43.95		CA102769	\$15.35	
H	CA10277	\$43.95		CA102779	\$15.35	

MAKING PREDICTIONS						
Book	Student Books			Teacher Guides		
	Code	Price (Set of 5)	Qty	Code	Price (Set of 5)	Qty
A	CA10156	\$43.95		CA101569	\$15.35	
B	CA10157	\$43.95		CA101579	\$15.35	
C	CA10158	\$43.95		CA101589	\$15.35	
D	CA10159	\$43.95		CA101599	\$15.35	
E	CA10160	\$43.95		CA101609	\$15.35	
F	CA10269	\$43.95		CA102699	\$15.35	
G	CA10270	\$43.95		CA102709	\$15.35	
H	CA10271	\$43.95		CA102719	\$15.35	

RECOGNISING CAUSE AND EFFECT						
Book	Student Books			Teacher Guides		
	Code	Price (Set of 5)	Qty	Code	Price (Set of 5)	Qty
A	CA10161	\$43.95		CA101619	\$15.35	
B	CA10162	\$43.95		CA101629	\$15.35	
C	CA10163	\$43.95		CA101639	\$15.35	
D	CA10164	\$43.95		CA101649	\$15.35	
E	CA10165	\$43.95		CA101659	\$15.35	
F	CA10272	\$43.95		CA102729	\$15.35	
G	CA10273	\$43.95		CA102739	\$15.35	
H	CA10274	\$43.95		CA102749	\$15.35	

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS AND MAKING INFERENCES						
Book	Student Books			Teacher Guides		
	Code	Price (Set of 5)	Qty	Code	Price (Set of 5)	Qty
A	CA10146	\$43.95		CA101469	\$15.35	
B	CA10147	\$43.95		CA101479	\$15.35	
C	CA10148	\$43.95		CA101489	\$15.35	
D	CA10149	\$43.95		CA101499	\$15.35	
E	CA10150	\$43.95		CA101509	\$15.35	
F	CA10263	\$43.95		CA102639	\$15.35	
G	CA10264	\$43.95		CA102649	\$15.35	
H	CA10265	\$43.95		CA102659	\$15.35	

COMPLETE SETS - Set of 6 books per level						
Book	Student Books			Teacher Guides		
	Code	Price (Set of 6)	Qty	Code	Price (Set of 6)	Qty
A	CA10369	\$49.45		CA103699	\$81.35	
B	CA10370	\$49.45		CA103709	\$81.35	
C	CA10371	\$49.45		CA103719	\$81.35	
D	CA10372	\$49.45		CA103729	\$81.35	
E	CA10373	\$49.45		CA103739	\$81.35	
F	CA10374	\$49.45		CA103749	\$81.35	
G	CA10375	\$49.45		CA103759	\$81.35	
H	CA10376	\$49.45		CA103769	\$81.35	

CLASS SETS - Includes 30 Student Books + 6 Teacher Guides			
Book	Code	Price	Qty
A	CA10377	\$327.75	
B	CA10378	\$327.75	
C	CA10379	\$327.75	
D	CA10380	\$327.75	
E	CA10381	\$327.75	
F	CA10382	\$327.75	
G	CA10383	\$327.75	
H	CA10384	\$327.75	

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