



# **7 KEYS TO COMPREHENSION**

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## **Number One: Motion picture of the mind: sensory images**

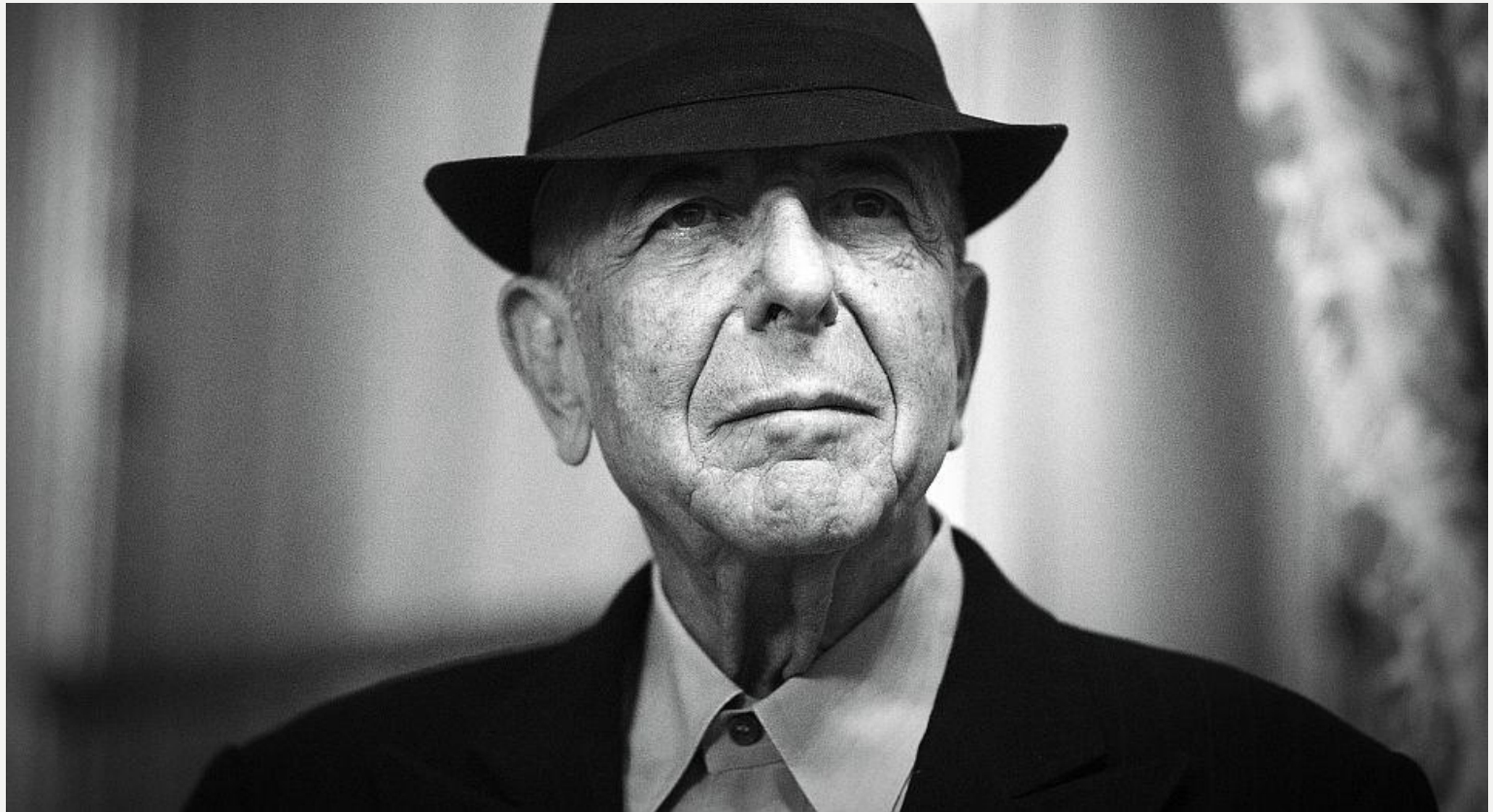
- Good readers create a wide range of visual, auditory, and other sensory images as they read, and they become emotionally involved with what they read.

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## **Number Two: Making connections: background knowledge**

- Good readers use their relevant prior knowledge before, during and after reading to enhance their understanding of what they're reading
  - Text to text
  - Text to self
  - Text to world

**BUT FIRST...**



**I HEARD THERE WAS A SECRET**  
**CHORD – NATIONAL FILM**  
**BOARD OF CANADA**



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## Number Three: **Why, what, where, who and how** questioning

- Questions indicate engagement
- Questions are fundamental to being a human being
- Questions are a key ingredient in building superb readers

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## **Number Four: Weaving sense into words: drawing inferences**

- Inferring involves forming a best guess about what the 'evidence' (words, sentences, and paragraphs) means; speculating about what's to come; and then drawing conclusions about what was read to deepen the meaning of the literal words on the page.

# BY USING INFERENCE YOU:

- Elaborate upon what you read
- Draw conclusions
- Make predictions
- Find connecting points
- Ask questions
- Personalize what you read to build a deeper meaning





“  
Once a little boy sent me a charming card with a little drawing on it. I loved it . . . I sent him a card and I drew a picture of a Wild Thing on it. I wrote, 'Dear Jim: I loved your card.' Then I got a letter back from his mother and she said, 'Jim loved your card so much he ate it.' That to me was one of the highest compliments I've ever received. He didn't care that it was an original Maurice Sendak drawing or anything. He saw it, he loved it, he ate it.

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5&6. What's important and why: determining importance and synthesizing

- An important aspect of comprehension is being able to distinguish between the nonessential information and the essential information.
- Determining importance has to do with knowing why you're reading and then making decisions about which information or ideas are most critical to understanding the overall meaning of the piece

# 7. CULTIVATING AWARENESS: FIX-UP STRATEGIES

- Go back and reread. Sometimes that is enough
- Read ahead to clarify meaning
- Identify what it is you don't understand: word sentence or concept
- If it is a word, read beyond and use context clues to help you understand.
- If it is a sentence in a picture book, look at the pictures.

- If it is a concept, try to summarize the story up to the confusing spot. If that doesn't clear it up, maybe you need to build more background knowledge.