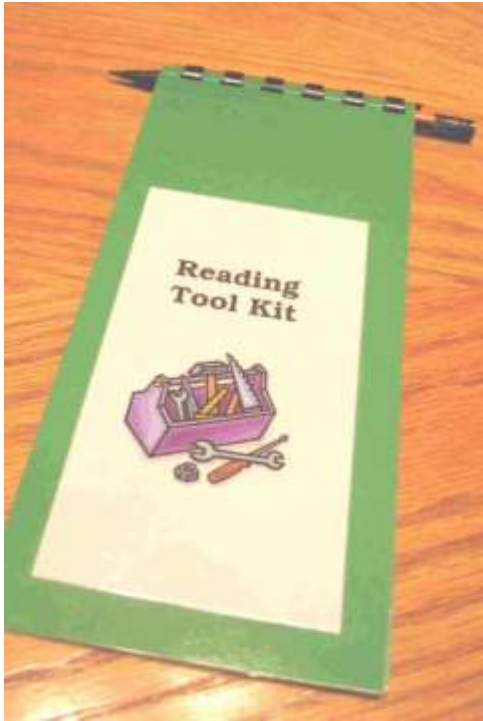


# The Reading Toolkit



**How did we ever teach reading without sticky notes?** The value of teaching students to track their thinking during reading by tabbing points of interest is well established. But one of the challenges of sticky note reading is managing all those little scraps of paper. In a short small-group reading lesson, we simply don't have time to waste searching for or distributing sticky notes.

My simple and inexpensive solution is the "reading toolkit," stocked with sticky notes, which enables us to have these tools at hand quickly and efficiently. Sometimes I will provide a variety of stickies from which students may choose, and other times I will have the toolkits pre-stocked with the specific size or type of sticky notes that will be needed for that day's reading.

Reading Toolkits are simple to create from a colored file folder. With the file folder folded shut, cut it in three inch (about 10 cm) strips. This gives you four Toolkits from one file folder. Add a clip-art label, if you choose, and laminate the unfolded Toolkit for durability. Refold and add a plastic coil for a pencil at the top (those small pencils that go with your golf score card work well) and you're set to stock the Toolkit with sticky notes for active reading.

Pre-stocking the Reading Toolkit with sticky notes is a teacher timesaver and eliminates wasted transition time as stickies are distributed. I prefer to keep the Toolkits in a central location, and distribute them as needed for instruction or independent reading.



## STOCKING THE TOOL KIT

Some of the “tools” used for sticky note reading include:

- sticky note “Stop Sign”
- skinny sticky note strips for tabbing (may be “fringes” cut from a 3x5 note)
- large square stickies for writing
- stickies of different shapes and sizes for different purposes
- highlighting tape (be sure to fold over the edge to make “grab tabs”)
- colored “flags” (especially red and green for “clicks and clunks”)
- pencil or pen

Sticky note reading may be used to support specific comprehension strategies, literary analysis or general “think-alouds.” For more information on sticky note reading to support comprehension, see “The Comprehension Connection and Sticky Note Reading” by Lori Jamison.