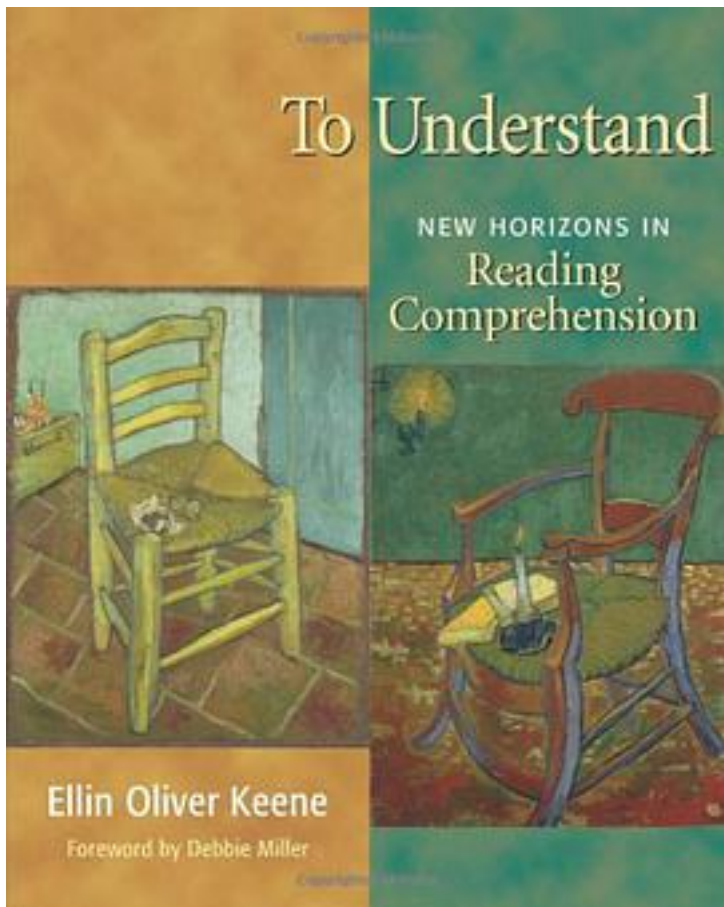


# To Understand



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incredible scope: adventurous, ingratiating, challenging, genuinely groundbreaking, and gorgeously written. It will knock the socks off this profession." - Harvey Daniels  
Author of "Subjects Matter" and "Content-Area Writing"

The renaissance in comprehension instruction launched by "Mosaic of Thought" has led to changes in hundreds of thousands of classrooms, where teachers now model reading strategies, and students probe meaning more deeply. But no book in the field has satisfactorily answered the question: "What does it really mean to comprehend?" In "To Understand," Ellin Oliver Keene not only explores this important question, but reveals what teachers can do to encourage all students to engage in deep understanding far more consistently than before. In discovering what's really behind comprehension, "To Understand" goes well beyond comprehension strategy instruction. Keene identifies specific Dimensions and Outcomes of Understanding - characteristics identified in readers with a highly developed ability to make sense of text - to help you rethink what comprehension is. She demonstrates how to leverage the Dimensions and Outcomes into relevant, provocative, memorable instruction. "To Understand" proposes a model that incorporates all aspects of literacy instruction - word learning and comprehension - and describes how teachers can focus on what matters most in literacy content. Keene shows that when teachers target the most essential content, they have the time to help every student engage more deeply with texts and discover a passion for reading and learning. The model is founded on four simple, but powerful concepts:

- Focus on what's important by teaching vital concepts in depth rather than skimming over nonessential skills
- Use research-based teaching and learning strategies, including proven-effective comprehension and language-based strategies, then taking them further by showing students how the strategies lead them to a fuller understanding of a text
- Teach the essential concepts over a long period of time so that children have an opportunity to learn not only a comprehension strategy, but to explore where that strategy leads in their understanding
- Give students numerous opportunities to apply the concepts in a variety of texts and contexts.

With "To Understand" in hand, you'll find new ways to draw out the innate intellectual interest in every student and spark dramatic improvements in literacy learning and comprehension, even among students who struggle. You'll see that by rethinking what it means to understand - by teaching children the Outcomes and Dimensions of understanding - you can help students exceed expectations while broadening your vision of their abilities, their capacity, and their energy for learning. There's still more - much more - to learn about comprehension. Read "To Understand," join Ellin Oliver Keene, and discover that what's at the very core of comprehension can not only reinvigorate your teaching but take your students to new, uncharted level

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目录:

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