



# Scarborough's Reading Rope

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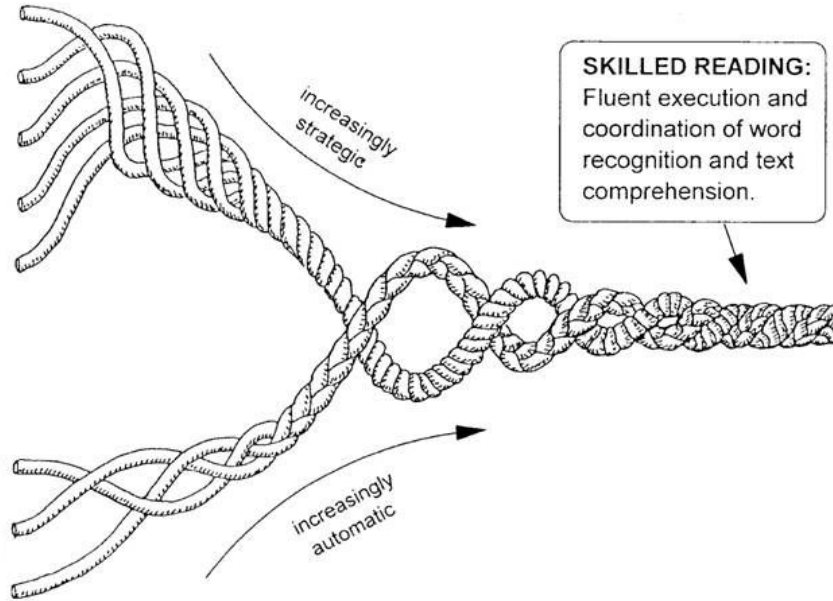
May 3, 2019



## THE MANY STRANDS THAT ARE WOVEN INTO SKILLED READING

LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION

WORD RECOGNITION



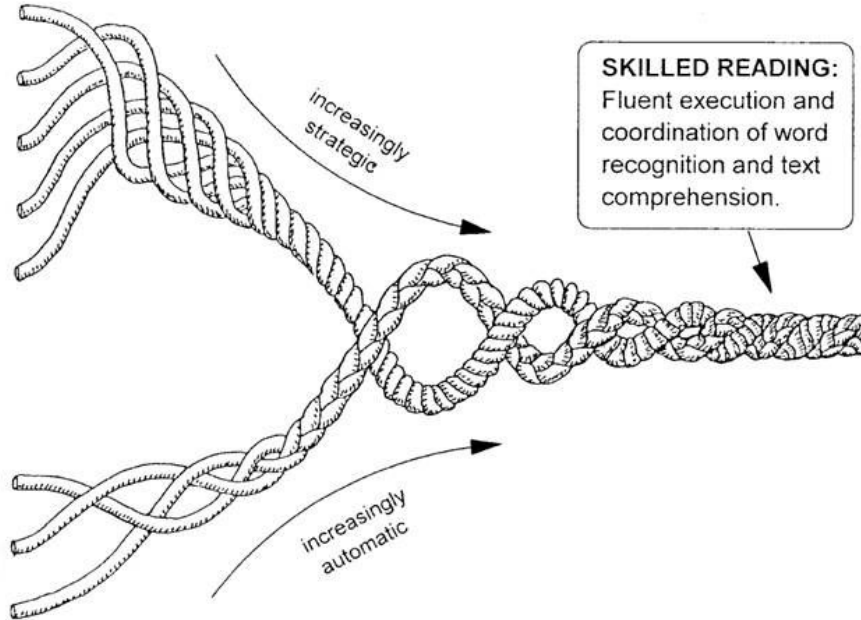
**SKILLED READING:**  
Fluent execution and  
coordination of word  
recognition and text  
comprehension.

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(syllables, phonemes, etc.)



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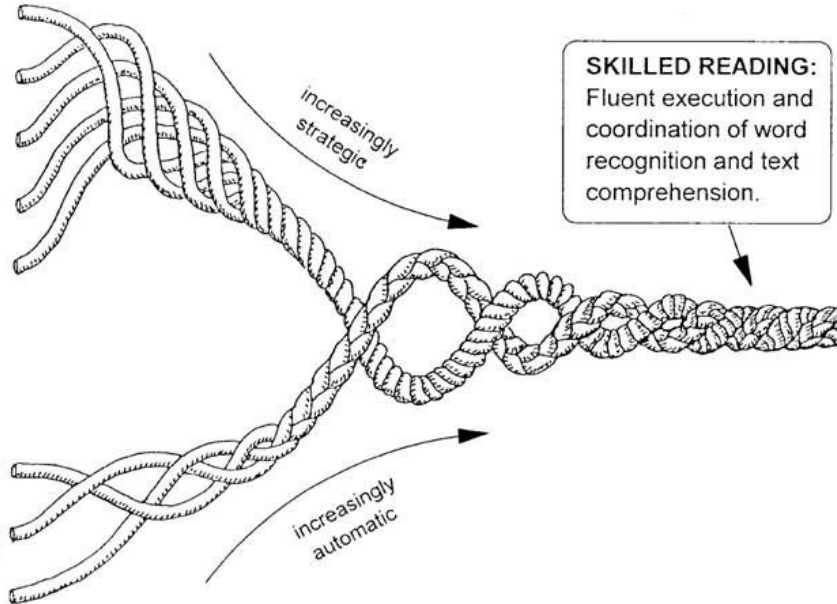
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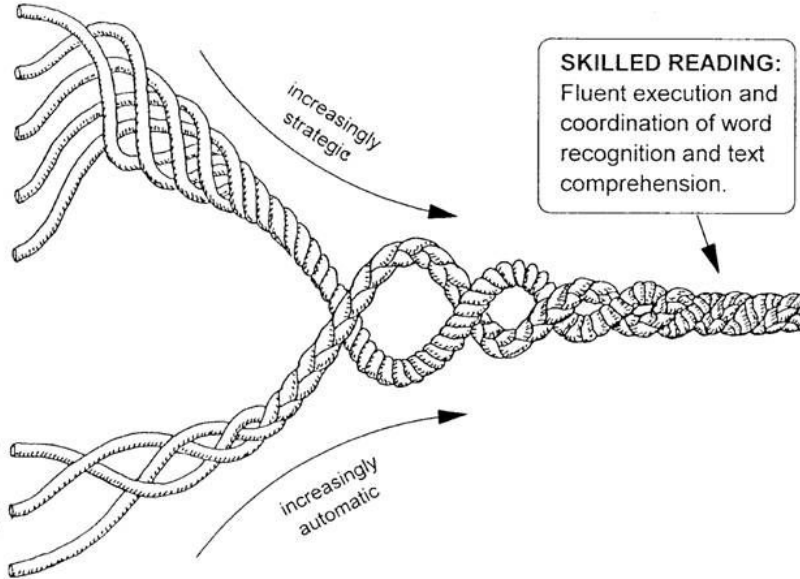
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“Skilled reading requires that the processes involved in word recognition become so well practiced that they can proceed extremely quickly and almost effortlessly, freeing up the reader’s cognitive resources for comprehension processes.”

Scarborough, 2001

“...as children acquire a high degree of proficiency in word identification and other word level skills, language comprehension and underlying oral language processes likely to become the primary of reading variability...”

“Results do make it clear that language comprehension becomes the dominant process in reading comprehension when the reader has acquired enough facility in word identification to comprehend in written language text what would be normally comprehended in spoken language.”

Vellutino et al, 2008

“Results showed that measures of language ability in kindergarten significantly added to the prediction of reading comprehension difficulties over and above kindergarten word reading predictors and direct measures of word reading in second grade.”

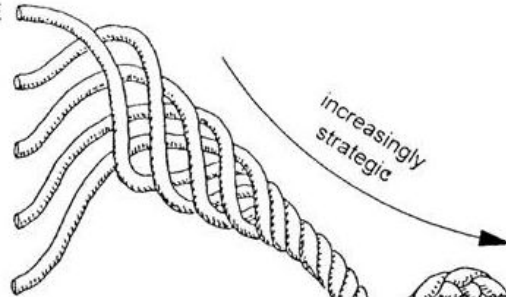
Catts, et al, 2016



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BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE  
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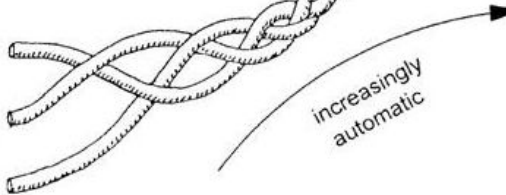
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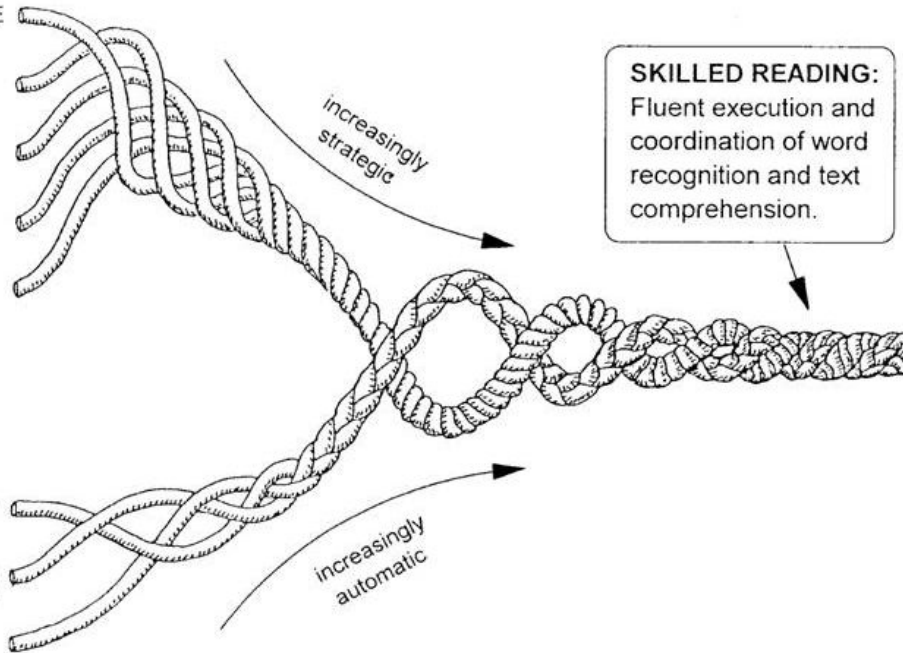
VOCABULARY  
(breadth, precision, links, etc.)

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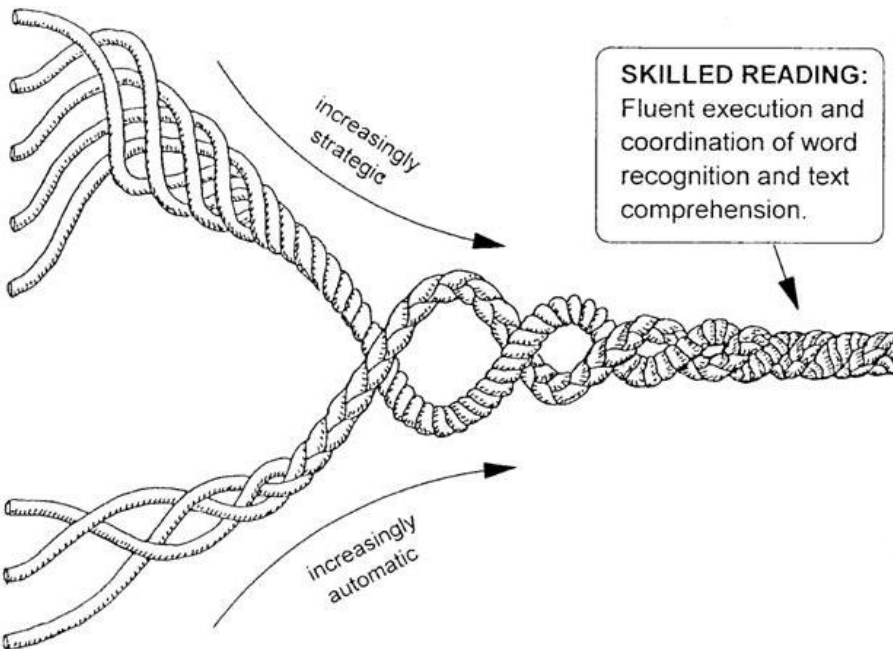
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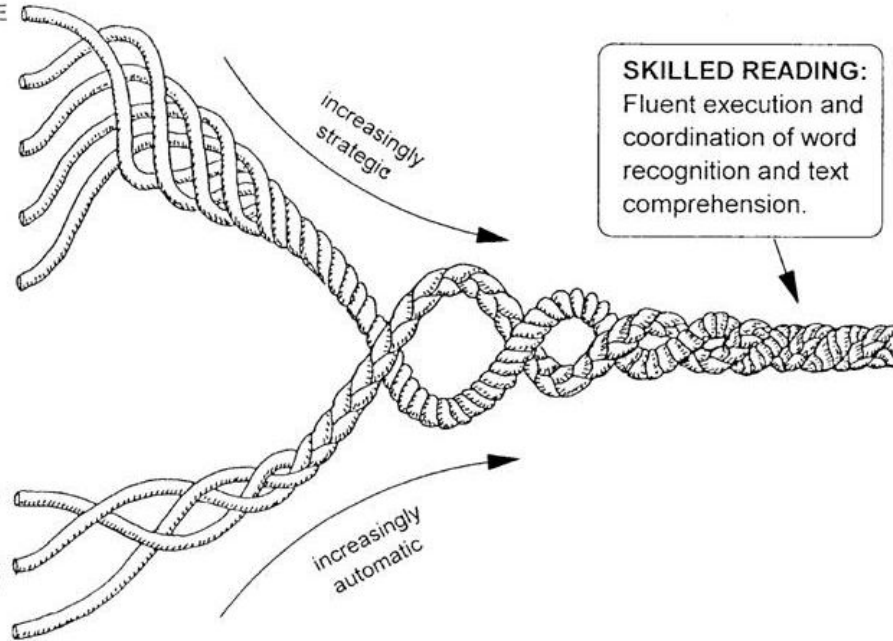
VERBAL REASONING  
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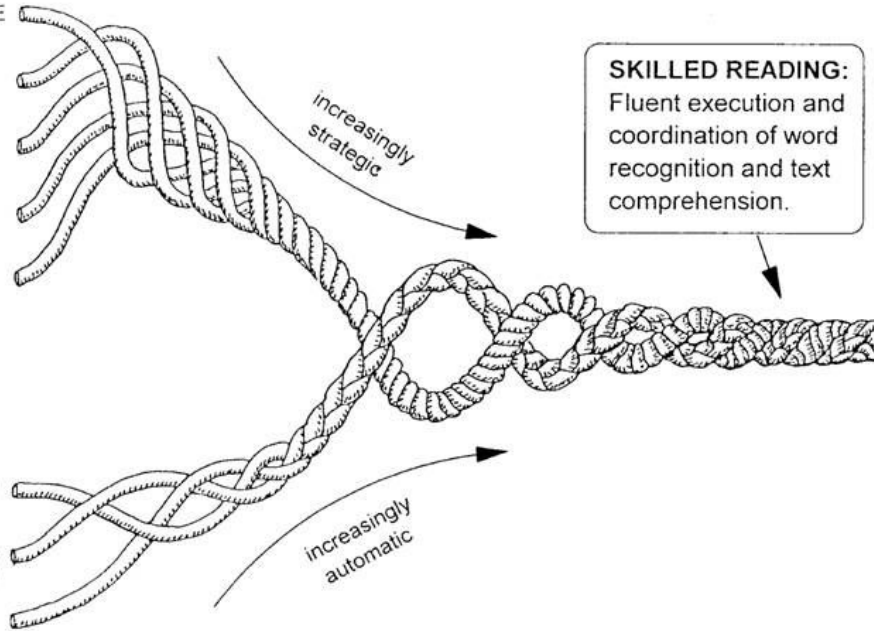
LITERACY KNOWLEDGE  
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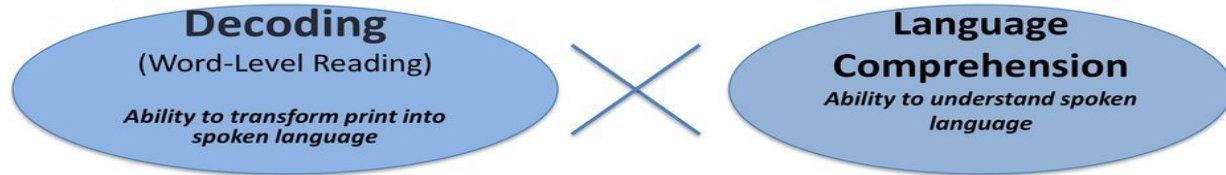


“Weakness in ANY strand can disrupt reading, and weakness in SEVERAL strands can disrupt reading more.”

Scarborough, 2018



# Simple View of Reading



**Word-level reading and oral language comprehension are relatively independent abilities.**

Gough, 1986

Decoding X Language Comprehension = Reading Comprehension

$$1 \times 0 = 0$$

$$0 \times 1 = 0$$



Why is that?

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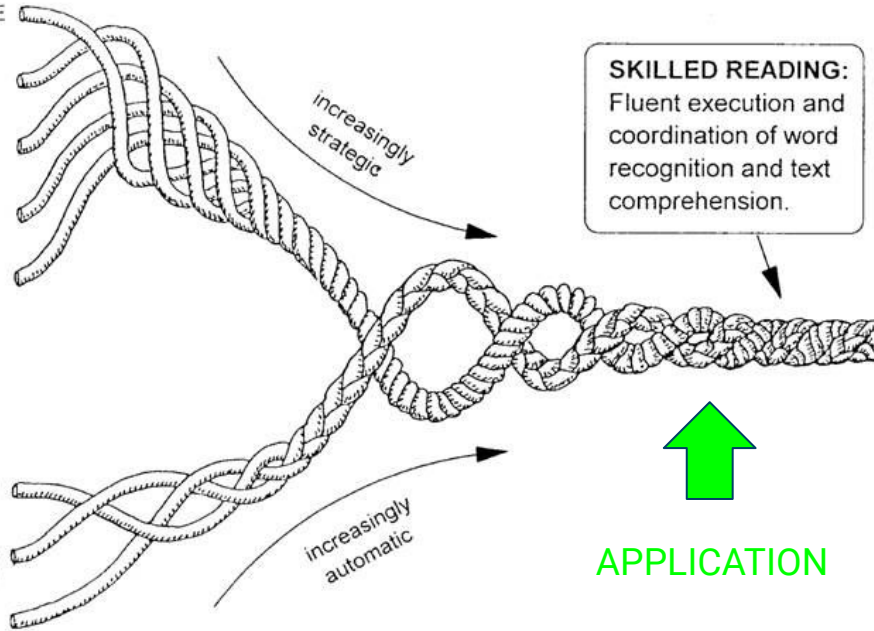
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# Strands of the Reading Rope

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## Language Comprehension:

- Background Knowledge
- Vocabulary
- Language Structures
- Verbal Reasoning
- Literacy Knowledge

## Word Recognition:

- Phonological Awareness
- Decoding
- Sight Recognition

## References:

<https://dyslexiaida.org/scarboroughs-reading-rope-a-groundbreaking-infographic/>

<https://explicitinstruction.org/>

<https://slideplayer.com/slide/12560216/>

Nancy Hennessy's PaTTAN Literacy Symposium presentation: The Multifaceted Nature of Reading Acquisition: Unraveling the Reading Rope June 13, 2018