Background Knowledge

<u>What the strategy is:</u>

A good reader will use their own experiences and what they already know about something to help them build an understanding of the text. This help make links between different subjects and knowledge.

<u>Using the strategy to build an understanding of the text:</u>

• Use own experience related to the subject of the text.
Fiction example:
Reading a text called 'The Party' - talk about and use own experiences about being at a party - what they party was for, what was there - presents decorations, games, music, etc and how people feel at parties and why.
Non-fiction example:
Text about the water cycle - identify key words and discuss meaning- what experiences do you have with the rods already? When have you seen water evaporate? When have you seen water condense? Link to everyday experiences. When do you use water?

• Use knowledge of a subject to support understanding the text.
Fiction example:
Reading a text called 'The Party' - talk about knowledge of what parties are for (a celebration), can you identify what celebrations you could have? Using knowledge from being at parties - what tends to be at most parties? Presents? Music? Decorations? Food? Why? Start to make links between own experiences, developing a knowledge base and connecting and using the knowledge base to support?
Non-fiction example:
Text about the water cycle - look at key words after teaching vocabulary. What do we already know about this topic - think back to previous years and work done, what have we learnt about water already? What do we know happens from our experiences of things? Discuss knowledge and start making connections to knowledge bases to support understanding of what they are reading.

<u>Question stems to help talk and think about this strategy:</u>

Have to ever been to _____?
When you have been to _____ what was there? How did people feel? What did you do? Why did you do those things?
What do you already know about _____?
What have you learnt already, looking at these key words, that will help us with _____?