

Contents

PREFACE	ix
INTRODUCTION	1
Perspective	
Preview	
Issues	
Chapter 1 KNOWLEDGE AND COMPREHENSION	7
Cognitive structure	
Theories of the world	
The structure of knowledge	
The dynamics of cognitive structure	
Thinking and “meta-thinking”	
Issues	
Summary	
Chapter 2 LANGUAGE: SPOKEN AND WRITTEN	25
Two aspects of language	
Written language and spoken language	
The organization of texts and comprehension	
The conventions of language	
Issues	
Summary	

Chapter 3	INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE	49
	Information and uncertainty	
	Comprehension and information	
	Limits to the utility of information	
	Information and experience	
	Issues	
	Summary	
Chapter 4	BETWEEN EYE AND BRAIN	65
	Two sides of reading	
	Limitations of vision	
	Implications for reading	
	On seeing backward	
	A little more physiology	
	Issues	
	Summary	
Chapter 5	BOTTLENECKS OF MEMORY	89
	Three aspects of memory	
	Overcoming memory limitations	
	Issues	
	Summary	
Chapter 6	LETTER IDENTIFICATION	105
	Theories of pattern recognition	
	What is a feature?	
	Issues	
	Summary	
Chapter 7	WORD IDENTIFICATION	119
	Three theories of word identification	
	Learning to identify words	
	A postscript about words	
	Issues	
	Summary	
Chapter 8	PHONICS AND MEDIATED WORD IDENTIFICATION	133
	The aims and complexity of phonics	
	Strategies of mediated word identification	
	Learning mediated word identification strategies	
	Issues	
	Summary	

Chapter 9	THE IDENTIFICATION OF MEANING	151
	Using meaning in reading	
	Comprehension and the reduction of uncertainty	
	Learning to identify meaning	
	Mediated meaning identification	
	Issues	
	Summary	
Chapter 10	READING, WRITING, AND THINKING	167
	Readers and writers	
	Fluent reading and difficult reading	
	Reading and thinking	
	Issues	
	Summary	
Chapter 11	LEARNING ABOUT THE WORLD AND ABOUT LANGUAGE	183
	Constructing a theory of the world	
	Learning about language	
	Three aspects of learning	
	Learning all the time	
	The conditions of learning	
	Learning—a social event	
	Issues	
	Summary	
Chapter 12	LEARNING TO USE WRITTEN LANGUAGE	201
	The importance of nonvisual information	
	Two critical insights	
	On instructional methods	
	Teaching reading	
	Tests and standards	
	The literacy club	
	Issues	
	Summary	
	NOTES	221
	GLOSSARY	309
	REFERENCES	315
	NAME INDEX	353
	SUBJECT INDEX	363