Breakdown and Repair

What the strategy

A good reader will recognise that there will be words and/or phrases in a text that they do not fully understand. There may be words that have been heard before but the meaning is not fully known. A good reader will pause reading and use **some** strategies to figure out the meaning of these words and/or phrases. This means that as a good reader, we can understand fully what is happening in the text. A good reader will also know that there will be words that they can decode (breakdown and read) but not know the meaning of.

Using the strategy to build an understanding of the text

• Re-read the sentence and think about what type of word it is
If we can work out what type of word it is, we can chart to use our other reading strategies to think about what the meaning is and what the word is telling us. If the word is a noun - we can start to use background knowledge, inference and I wonder to start thinking about what the thing might be. If the word is an adjective we can use background knowledge, inference and I wonder to then think about the whole sentence to then think about what the describing word means.

• Re-read the whole sentence to get an idea of what is happening to infer meaning
Read the whole sentence again and think about the words and phrases that are known to support understanding the sentence to then make inferences and use background knowledge about what the word means.

• Break the word down to then figure out if it contains any known words or is linked to any known words.
Start to see if there word is made up of any known words that can then help us infer meaning. Example: extraordinary. The word 'extra' can be recognised and then used to help infer and work out the whole word meaning.

• From inferred meaning, re-read with a similar meaning word to check it makes sense
Re-read the sentences and replace the word with a synonym to see if it makes sense in the sentence - this will help check the inferred meaning of the word. Using the other reading strategies, you can consider whether the meaning fits thinking about the visualisation from the text and background knowledge about the text.

• Check meaning using a thesaurus or ask someone for support
Once other strategies have been used to infer meaning, this can then be checked using a thesaurus or asking someone who is familiar with the word to clarify the word meaning.

Question stems to help talk and think about this strategy

Can you see or find any words that you have not heard or seen before?
Can you find any words that you have heard of but not sure of their meaning?
Does the familiar word you have used to replace the word make sense when you read the sentence?
What type of word is it? What does it tell you?
Are there any words you recognise within the word?