**Accessing Prior Knowledge**

A key skill in developing stronger reading skills, particularly in regards to comprehension, is to take a moment to reflect on what you already know about a topic. Strong readers (and writers) do this automatically, often without realizing it. Reading means encountering new information and adding, comparing, contrasting it to what you already know.

In the case of writing, it is interesting to know where your gaps are, particularly if you are to embark upon a research project.

**What do you know about “Indian Residential Schools”?**

Answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Some individuals have had a lot of exposure to Canada’s history and are very familiar with this material. Others may be new to it entirely. As an education system, we are very scattered in our delivery of this content, as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Report has led to a much overdue and very necessary increase in Aboriginal content, approach, and worldview into the Euro-dominant Canadian classroom.

Please do your best. Do not feel worried if you cannot answer these questions- this is simply to help me better understand where we are as a class in terms of this content.

**Questions** ( from the Greater Victoria School district):

1. What were Indian Residential Schools?
2. Why were First Nations children sent to Indian Residential schools?
3. Who paid for the schools?
4. Who ran the schools?
5. What were some of the experiences of children at these schools?
6. When did the last Indian Residential school close?
7. What were some of the effects of Indian Residential schools on First Nations people?
8. Why do you think it might be important to learn about Indian Residential schools?