



# I READ IT, BUT I DON'T GET IT

Comprehension Strategies for Adolescent Readers

**CRIS TOVANI**

*Foreword by Ellin Oliver Keene*

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*Is it possible to turn on the lights in your room every morning knowing that the students with whom you work will understand more than any you've worked with before? Wouldn't it be extraordinary to be in a profession where you felt like that, where those with whom you work are thriving? Welcome home. You've chosen the right career. You've chosen the right book.*

Ellin Oliver Keene

*I Read It, but I Don't Get It* is a practical, engaging account of how teachers can help adolescents develop new reading comprehension skills. Cris Tovani is an accomplished teacher and staff developer who writes with verve and humor about the challenges of working with students at all levels of achievement—from those who have mastered the art of “fake reading” to college-bound juniors and seniors who struggle with the different demands of content-area textbooks and novels.

Enter Cris's classroom, a place where students are continually learning new strategies for tackling difficult text. You will be taken step-by-step through practical, theory-based reading instruction that can be adapted for use in any subject area. The book features:

- anecdotes in each chapter about real kids with real universal problems. You will identify with these adolescents and will see how these problems can be solved;
- a thoughtful explanation of current theories of comprehension instruction and how they might be adapted for use with adolescents;
- a What Works section in each of the last seven chapters that offers simple ideas you can immediately employ in your classroom. The suggestions can be used in a variety of content areas and grade levels (6–12);
- teaching tips and ideas that benefit struggling readers as well as proficient and advanced readers;
- appendixes with reproducible materials that you can use in your classroom, including double-entry diaries, comprehension constructors, and coding sheets.

In a time when students need increasingly sophisticated reading skills, this book will provide support for teachers who want to incorporate comprehension instruction into their daily lesson plans without sacrificing content knowledge.



Cris Tovani taught elementary school for ten years before becoming a high school reading specialist and English teacher. A nationally known consultant, she chooses to continue teaching high school students full-time. She has also worked for many years as a staff developer for the Denver-based Public Education and Business Coalition (PEBC), the consortium that has received national acclaim for its work in reading comprehension reform. In addition to teaching and consulting, she is an adjunct instructor for University of Denver and the University of Colorado at Denver.



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