

# The Science of Reading & THE ARTS

## THE SCIENCE OF READING IS:

The science of reading is a vast, interdisciplinary body of scientifically-based\* research about reading and issues related to reading and writing.

This research has been conducted over the last five decades across the world, and it is derived from thousands of studies conducted in multiple languages. The science of reading has culminated in a preponderance of evidence to inform how proficient reading and writing develop; why some have difficulty; and how we can most effectively assess and teach and, therefore, improve student outcomes through prevention of and intervention for reading difficulties.

## THE SCIENCE OF READING IS NOT:

- ✗ an ideology or philosophy
- ✗ a fad, trend, new idea, or pendulum swing
- ✗ a political agenda
- ✗ a one-size-fits-all approach
- ✗ a program of instruction
- ✗ a single, specific component of instruction, such as phonics

## SCARBOROUGH'S READING ROPE: HOW WE LEARN TO READ

### Language Comprehension

**Background Knowledge**  
(facts, concepts, etc.)

**Vocabulary**  
(breadth, precision, links, etc.)

**Language Structures**  
(syntax, semantics, etc.)

**Verbal Reasoning**  
(inference, metaphor, etc.)

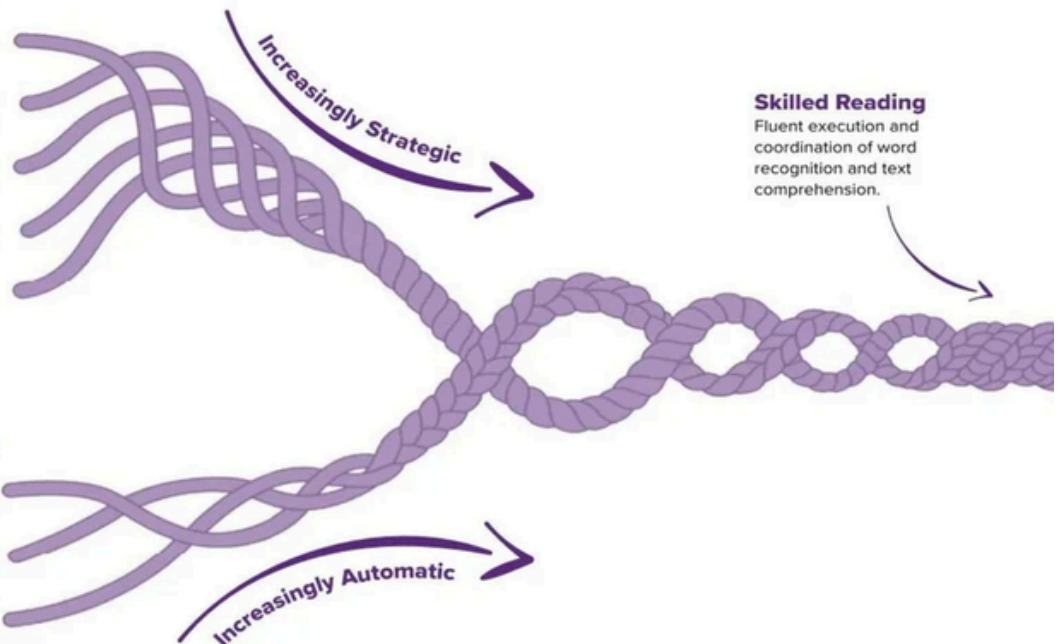
**Literacy Knowledge**  
(print concepts, genres, etc.)

### Word Recognition

**Phonological Awareness**  
(syllables, phonemes, etc.)

**Decoding**  
(alphabetic principle, spelling-sound correspondences)

**Sight Recognition**  
(of familiar words)



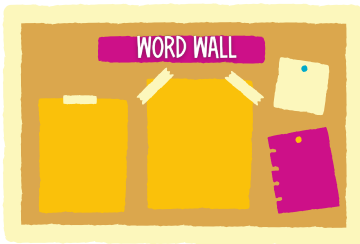
The Reading Rope (Scarborough, 2001)

(Image source: The Reading League, 2022)

# The Science of Reading & THE ARTS

## THE ARTS' ROLE & IDEAS FOR CONNECTING S.O.R. WITH THE ARTS

Arts Educators and Arts Integration Specialists can **consider opportunities within their settings to support literacy development**, including the development of oral and written language within their settings, leading to positive literacy outcomes. This “all-hands-on-deck” approach helps **foster synergistic conversations between educators to better understand their learners** and their unique needs, and how every educator in the school can support the development of essential literacy skills.



Common Word Walls across classrooms and content areas



Exploring the origins of arts vocabulary words



Building fluency between reading and performing music, dance, or theatre dialogue.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:



[Download the Science of Reading Defining Guide Book](#)



[Download the Rhode Island SOR & Arts Instruction Guide](#)



[Visit The Reading League Website](#)