# Text Coding Strategy

Text coding is a strategy used to help students keep track of thinking while they are reading.  Students use a simple coding system to mark the text and record what they are thinking either in the margins or on post-it notes. As students make connections, self-question, and respond to what they reading, they are self-monitoring their comprehension and enhancing long term understanding. The codes help students name and remember a particular thinking strategy and track the thinking throughout the text. Following are options for students to use while coding text.

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| **Symbol** | **Meaning** |
| **T-S** | Text-to-self connection |
| **T-T** | Text-to-text connection |
| **T-W** | Text-to-world connection |
| **V** | Visualize or make a picture in my head |
| **P** | Predict |
| **I** | Infer (read between the lines) |
| **2+2** | Synthesize (put together) |
| **!** | Important |
| **?** | Question: I wonder; I don’t understand; *or* Puzzles me |
| **+** | New information (clarify) |
| **X** | I thought differently |
| **=** | Reminds me of… |
| **✓** | Confirms what I thought |

It’s important to select symbols that make sense for what students are being asked to read and for the subject matter at hand. Symbols can be taught or used in isolation as appropriate for the purpose and content of the reading.