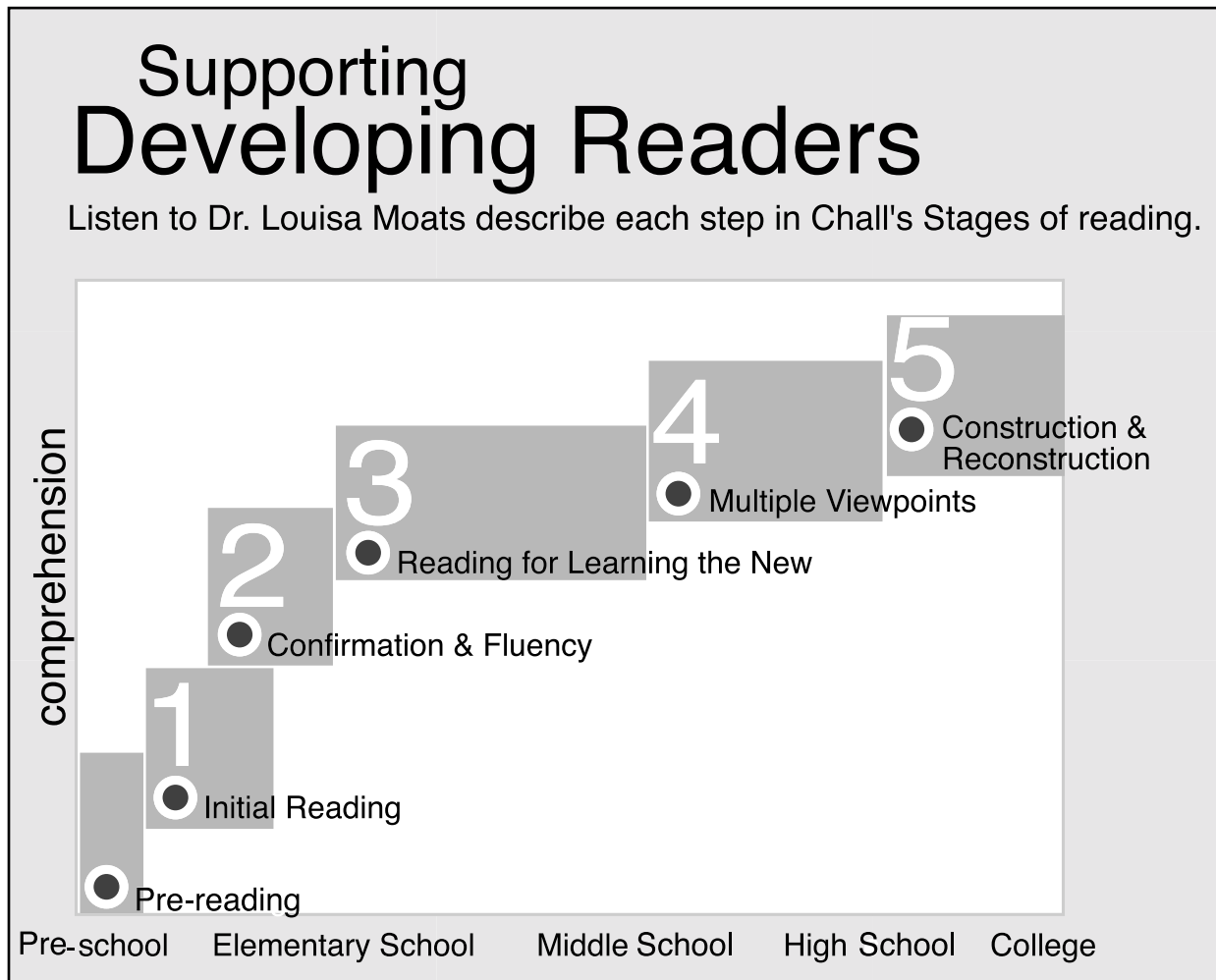


# A Look at the Research

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# Chall's Stages of Reading Development



**Stage 0 Prereading**

Oral language development

**Stage 1 Initial Reading**

Letters represent sounds  
Sound-spelling relationships

**Stage 2 Confirmation and Fluency**

Decoding skills  
Fluency  
Additional strategies

**Stage 3 Reading for Learning “the New”**

Expand vocabularies  
Build background and world knowledge  
Develop strategic habits

**Stage 4 Multiple Viewpoints**

Analyze texts critically  
Understand multiple points of view

**Stage 5 Construction and Reconstruction**

Construct understanding based on analysis and synthesis

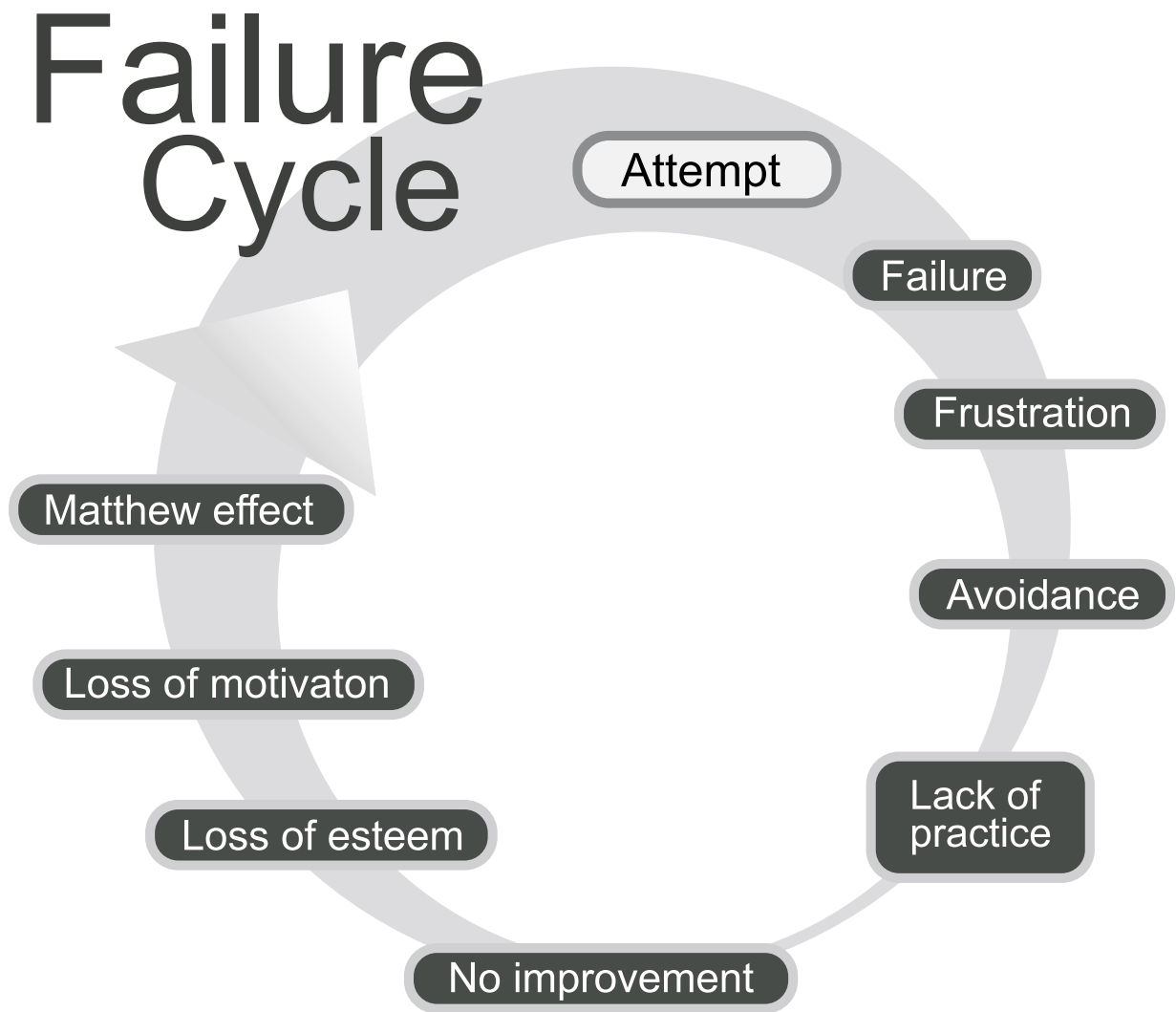
# Chall's Stages of Reading Development

According to renowned professor Dr. Jeanne Chall, students proceed through predictable stages of learning to read. During the pre-reading stage up until about 6 years old, children begin to control language. By the time students reach kindergarten they should have some print knowledge and vocabularies of about 6,000 words. Many children can write their names.

In stage 1, children develop a sense of the alphabetic principle and use sound-spelling relationships. Through grades 2 and 3, the second stage of reading, students develop their decoding skills, their fluency and additional strategies to make meaning from text. Stage 3, which lasts from grades 4 through 8 is a time when students encounter wide varieties of texts and contexts, and all the reading demands that accompany these experiences. They must extend their vocabularies if they are to effectively obtain information from text; the texts also extend the background experiences and strategic habits of readers.

In stages 4 and 5, through high school and college, the language and cognitive demands of readers increase, and they are expected to analyze texts critically and understand multiple points of view. By stage 5, reading is considered truly constructive, that is readers take in significant range of information and construct their own understanding for their own individual uses based on analysis and synthesis.

# The Failure Cycle



## Nonfiction Books for Grades 3–5

Use these books to model and teach comprehension strategies.

Grade	Title	Author	Publisher
<b>3</b>	<i>Postcards From Pluto: A Tour of the Solar System</i>	Loreen Leedy	Holiday House
	<i>The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System</i>	Joanna Cole	Scholastic Inc.
	<i>A Book About Planets and Stars</i>	Betty Polisar Reigot	Scholastic Inc.
<b>4</b>	<i>All About Maps</i>	Catherine Chambers	Franklin Watts, Inc.
	<i>Do Tornadoes Really Twist?</i>	Melvin and Gilda Berger	Scholastic Inc.
	<i>Cities: The Building of America</i>	Gare Thompson	Children’s Press
<b>5</b>	<i>The Declaration of Independence</i>	R. Conrad Stein	Children’s Press
	<i>Stealing Home: The Story of Jackie Robinson</i>	Barry Denenberg	Scholastic Inc.
	<i>The Story of The White House</i>	Kate Waters	Scholastic Inc.