

**I READ IT, BUT I DON'T GET IT**  
**By CHRIS TOVANI**

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If you are anything like me, you have struggled with the problem of blank stares the day after giving your students a reading assignment. I can feel the annoyance even now. Why don't they answer? Some of my questions are straightforward comprehension questions. Hello, is anyone there?

Chris Tovani is a reading specialist who understands this problem. In her book *I Read It, But I Don't Get It: Comprehension Strategies for Adolescent Readers*, she relates to this frustration, and then she introduces us to several of her students, who, for various reasons, read and "don't get it." She explains how many poor readers learn to duck reading responsibilities and don't get the meaning of the text because they believe reading is simply the decoding of words. To illustrate the problem and identify solutions, Tovani contrasts the skills of the good reader with those of the poor reader.

In addition, she clearly explains that reading literature and content area material needs to be approached strategically.

I can think of many reasons for you to read this book. First, it's an easy read. Second, it is interesting because we can all relate to the cast of characters she brings to life. Third, it sheds light on why kids don't understand what they read. And fourth, at the end of each chapter she provides the reader with an overview of "What Works" including specific implementation suggestions.

This book is a journey into the minds of students who, as Carol Santa would say, "don't do school." I highly recommend it. You will be able to make meaningful connections to your teaching and your students. It will remind you of why it is so important to teach students how to read strategically.

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