

Reading Comprehension Strategies

Before Reading

1. Take note of the title, author, and any headings in the text.

Title _____ Author _____

2. Based on the title, author, and headings, what might this text discuss? What clues lead you to make this prediction?

3. What is the text's genre? That is, what type of text are you reading (essay, short story, journal article, poem, novel)?

4. What preliminary questions do you have about the text?

During Reading

1. If the text is an essay, short story, or a short poem, read the whole text to get an overview of its content. If you are reading a lengthy text, such as a novel, you may wish to read one or two chapters at a time.

2. Then, read the text a second time. Use the strategies below to help you analyze and annotate the text.

A) Underline important concepts and circle any new vocabulary words.

B) Take notes and write any questions in the margins. You can later return to your questions and notes, paying particular attention to certain passages. You might also take notes using an outline such as the following:

Main Idea (1-2 sentences): _____

Author's Point of View: _____

My Questions: _____

New Vocabulary Words: _____

3. If you are having difficulty with a paragraph, try these strategies:

A) Read the paragraphs that come both before and after it to provide context clues.

B) Identify the topic sentence. Remember, the topic sentence may appear in the first or last sentence of a paragraph. The topic sentence may also be implied.

C) Determine the main idea and supporting details. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage: Who? What? Where? When? Why?

D) Look for transition words that might indicate a shift in the text's meaning, such as *next*, *before*, *then*, *consequently*, *moreover*, *in addition*, *but*, *however*.

4. If you are learning English, concentrate on the main ideas of paragraphs. Avoid translating each word or idiom in a sentence. Before looking up an unknown word in the dictionary, use context clues to determine the word's meaning. If you find a definition in the dictionary, write the definition in the margin.

After Reading

1. Review your notes and reread the text's introduction and conclusion.
2. Talk aloud or write about the material. Use your own words to review the material. Answer your questions from your pre-reading and those that emerged during reading.
3. Think about the relationships among your ideas. How do they compare or contrast? How could you classify or group together some ideas?
4. Consider how the text relates to other works by the same author, other texts you have read by different authors, and the themes you have discussed in class.
5. Write a short summary that highlights the main ideas. What are the most important ideas and themes from the text? If you are reading literature, focus on writing about the literary elements and themes, not just plot summary.
6. Study your additional notes.

Reading Comprehension Strategies: Worksheet

Before Reading

1. Title _____ Author _____

2. Based on the title, author, and headings, what might this text discuss? What clues lead you to make this prediction?

3. What is the text's genre? That is, what type of text are you reading (essay, short story, journal article, poem, novel)?

During Reading

1. Main Idea (1-2 sentences): _____

2. Important Supporting Details: _____

3. Topic Sentence: _____

4. Author's Point of View: _____

5. My Questions: _____

6. **New Vocabulary Words:**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

After Reading

1. Answers to my questions from pre-reading and during reading:

2. Explore relationships among my ideas. How do they compare or contrast? How could I classify or group together some ideas? How else are the ideas connected? Are any ideas unrelated? Why?

4. How does the text relate to other works I've read by the same author? Does the text remind me of other works written by different authors? How does the text connect to themes or ideas that we've been discussing in class?

5. **Summary**

Write a short summary that highlights the main ideas. What are the most important ideas and themes from the text? (If you are reading literature, focus on writing about the literary elements and themes, not just plot summary.)
