

READING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES

1. Improve reading comprehension with pre-reading tasks:

- Research the topic by reading the background information that may appear on the inner flap of the book jacket. Many books include an introductory section and a mini-biography about the author.
- Before reading the text, ask yourself what you already know about its topic. Think of related ideas you've learned in the past.

2. Preview:

- Look through the pages of your book and read the headings of the chapter and any sections dividing the chapter. Read the first and last paragraph in a section.

3. Question:

- Ask yourself some questions about the book you will be reading:
 - What kind of text is this?
 - Is this text informative or entertaining, fact or fiction?
 - What interests me about this book?
- Think about what you already know based on what you saw during your preview.

4. Read:

- Begin to read your book, making notes on ideas that seem important. If the book belongs to you, consider making notes in the margins and highlight important parts.
- As you read, make a list of unfamiliar vocabulary words.
- Look up the meanings of the words in the dictionary, and jot the definitions down by hand.

5. Reflect:

- Take time to reflect on what you have read.
- As you read, what questions come to mind? Read on to find the answers.
- How are the passages or chapters inter-related.
- How does the information fit into things you have already learned?

6. Recite:

- Think about the material and discuss it with someone else, or write down the main points you learned.
- Writing information down will improve memory of the material.
- If writing is a problem for you, consider brief notes. It is important to summarize the material in writing using your own words.
- Consider using a graphic organizer to increase your understanding of how concepts in the reading relate to each other.

7. Review:

- Consider the main points of the book you have read.
- Quiz yourself on the main points.
 - What was the main idea?
 - What did you learn about the characters in the story?
- Jot down your thoughts in your own words to help you remember them and give you deeper insight into the topic.

