

# Reading Tool Kit (fiction)

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## Preview the book

Whether you are choosing a book for enjoyment or have been assigned a book, you should look at the following text features:

- \*front and back cover
- \*title (and half-title) page
- \*dedication page
- \*table of contents
- \*prologue and epilogue
- \*foreword and after notes

Answer these questions:

- \*What is your purpose for reading this book?
- \*What do you want to remember when you are done reading this book?
- \*What are the challenges in reading this book?
- \*Do I need to use a tool to improve my comprehension of the ideas and events of this book?

TOOL BOX: \*story map (setting, characters events...)

- \*event map to summarize chapters
- \*character map for one or more key characters
- \*a sticky note to write down "notes to clarify"
- \*semantic map to organize ideas

## Active reading strategies

Use the right **mental voice**.

👉 A word calling voice only identifies the words.

👉 A distracting voice lets your mind wander to think about other things.

😊 An active reading voice interacts with the text to develop a deep understanding of what you are reading and how it relates to what you already know.

😊 Put yourself inside the story. Let yourself see **and** feel what the writer is saying.

**Predict** throughout the entire book. Anticipate what you will read and then check/fix-up your predictions.

Remember:

Info from the book + Info from you = A Thoughtful Prediction

**Clarify** by monitoring your reading for misunderstandings (words or ideas). Rereading and reading ahead can help clarify difficulties. If not, write down on a sticky note, "notes to clarify" with an adult later.

Clarify Phonics:

- 1) Look for the largest chunks you know. (syllables, prefixes, suffixes)
- 2) Look at the letters and think about the sounds.
- 3) Reread the sentence to verify your word.

**Question** the text to check your understanding of what you have read. You should always do this at the end of chapters. However, using this strategy after key events is also very helpful. These questions should go beyond simple information. Good fiction questions include:

Why did the character do this?

What does my mental image of this setting look like? What do I hear happening? What words does the author use to help me see or feel this?

What was the reason for this?

Why did the character say that?

What does this action have to do with what the character said (or did) previously?

Were you surprised when \_\_\_\_? Why?

What might happen now?

What do you wish would happen next?

What problem is this character trying to solve?

Did the book end the way you thought it would? ...the way you wanted it to end?

Was it a surprise ending?

How do you feel about the ending?

If you were this character, what would you do differently?

How would you describe \_\_\_\_ in your own words?

What is the difference between \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_?

Why is \_\_\_\_ important?

Summarize this chapter in your own words.

Describe one of the characters.

\*\*\*\*\*Did the author use any interesting words that I would like to put into my vocabulary?

Connect the text to life experiences, other texts or prior knowledge. Ask yourself the following questions:

Is the subject familiar?

Do the characters resemble familiar people?

Have you learned about the concept from school, home, or other experiences?

Is the style or genre familiar? Does it remind you of other texts you have read (TV shows, movies, games)

### **Vocabulary Development**

You can find clues for unknown words embedded within the text in the form of a definition, restatement, example, comparison or contrast, description, synonym or antonym.

Expository, non-fiction text tends to offer more context clues than narrative story text.

Rich context = lot of clues to figure out a word

Misdirective context = watch out for this one. Sometimes clues mislead you. Verify your prediction of the definition throughout the text or get a dictionary.

Lean context = not much there to help figure out a word. Don't sell yourself short by ignoring the word. Take the time to look it up on the computer or in a dictionary.

\*Dictionary tips~To choose the right definition, you must:

Use background knowledge about the content in the text.

Have a sense of the grammatical use in the text.

Read and understand each definition.

Use the new word in a sentence of your own.

**Summarize** after chapters and key events. You can do this in your head or write it down. For longer books, it is helpful to use one of the tools mentioned above. If a few days pass between readings, you can use your tool to remind you of what was happening in the book the last time you read it.

### **After Reading Strategies**

\*If you used something from your tool box, save it in your reading folder. This will be helpful if you read another book with a similar plot or written by the same author.

\*Write a brief summary of this book in your reading folder.

\*Be a word detective. Try to find the new words you read in this book in other books, on TV, in the newspaper or even in conversation.

\*Discuss your reading with a friend, your parents and your teacher.

\*Show others how you used your reading strategies. This does not mean simply telling what you did. You should open your book and show how you did it.

©Remember, reading is challenging! Your brain is doing a lot of different things all at the same time. So, stay focused and use all your strategies! Above all, be willing to reread sections or even the entire book. **NOBODY** gets all the information after one reading! This is an excellent way to build fluency too.