

Reading Tool Kit (nonfiction)

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Preview the book:

- (1) Read the title and think about what you already know about this topic. Or, "build knowledge" by talking with someone about the topic.
- (2) Look through the text features to find main ideas:
 - Table of Contents
 - Chapter Titles
 - Photographs and captions
 - Headings and subheadings
 - Glossary
 - Index
- (3) Prepare a piece of paper for note taking based on the information you found in the text features.
- (4) Form thoughtful questions, based on your preview, to give your reading purpose.

Reading is ACTIVE!! So put a pencil in your hand!!

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.

Active reading strategies:

Predict by using text features. Anticipate what you will read and then check/fix-up your predictions.

Clarify by monitoring your reading for misunderstandings (words or ideas). Rereading can help clarify difficult words and ideas. If not, write down "notes to clarify" with an adult later.

Question the text to check your understanding of what you read. These questions should go beyond simple information. Good nonfiction questions include:

- What was the reason ___ happened?
- How does this reading match with what I already know about ___ ?
- Why did the author choose this word to describe ___ ?
- What do I know about ___ at this point?
- What problem is this ___ (war, experiment...) trying to solve?
- What ideas did the ___ use to support their position? Do I agree?
- What other ___ fit into this category?
- Can I retell this section in my own words?

Questioning should be done

--after reading about an important idea/fact

--after reading a section from a textbook

--after finishing a chapter

Note taking makes reading more efficient!

Notes are your tool and therefore, should be useful to you. They should not be viewed as something you do because you were told to. Notes should be helpful. So, choose the format that fits best with what you are reading.

- Venn diagrams (overlapping circles) are helpful when comparing.
- KWL charts help you organize what you **know**, what you **want** to know and what you **learned**.

- A Semantic map or web helps you organize related ideas.
- ***Perhaps the most valuable tool is the three column notes! This can be used with any nonfiction text/textbook. Simply divide notebook paper like this:

Main Ideas	Details	My notes
This could include chapter titles, headings and subheadings.	List important information from the reading. This section should be the widest because it will have most of the information.	In this column, bring attention to the ideas needing review. You can draw <u>quick</u> pictures, list key words or make connections with other facts/ideas. Whatever you put here should make studying the <u>detailed</u> information easier.

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.

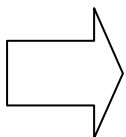
Lean context = not much there to help figure out a word. Don't sell yourself short by ignoring the word. Take the time to look it up on the computer or in a dictionary.

*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.

After reading strategies:

- Using your notes, write a summary of what you read. If you used the three column strategy, this will be quite easy. Focus your summary on the main idea section. Keep this summary in a personal reading folder to refer to later when you read another book on the same topic.
- 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 conversations.
- 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 whole book. NOBODY gets all the information after one reading!