

Reading Strategies

The English curriculum requires teachers to give students explicit instruction in reading strategies that will teach them to be more skillful and strategic readers. Students become better readers when they know why they are reading. Teach them to recognize when they are reading to be informed, reading for literary experience, or reading to perform a task, and help them to name, select, and apply strategies appropriate for each intent. **The following strategies apply to reading in ALL content areas.**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [Activating Prior Knowledge] [Clarifying] [Context Clues] [Drawing Conclusions] [Evaluating] [Fix-Up] [Inferring] [Key Words] [Predicting] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [QAR] [Rereading] [Restating] [Setting a Purpose] [Skimming/Scanning] [Summarizing] [Surveying] [Think Aloud] [Visualizing] |
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Reading Strategy	Activating Prior or background Knowledge
Definition	Use pre-reading tasks to help reader make connections between new knowledge and what is known
Application	Use graphic organizer that elicits thinking and discussion about themes or ideas related to text, such as KWL and predict/support charts. Students should read to complete the organizer
Occurs	Before Reading

Reading Strategy	Clarifying
Definition	Make the meaning of text clear to the reader
Application	Ask questions, reread, restate and visualize to make text more comprehensible.
Occurs	During Reading

Reading Strategy	Context Clues
Definition	Use words surrounding unknown word to determine its meaning
Application	Have students complete a cloze task activity-fill in missing words, ideas, or concepts.
Occurs	During Reading

Reading Strategy	Drawing Conclusions
Definition	Use written or visual cues to figure out something that is not directly stated
Application	Create leading questions relating to a passage. Have students respond with their own opinions, thoughts, or ideas based on information from the reading.
Occurs	After Reading

Reading Strategy	Evaluating
Definition	Encourage reader to form opinions, make judgments, and develop ideas from reading
Application	Create evaluative questions that will lead students to make generalizations about and critically evaluate a text.
Occurs	During Reading, After Reading

Reading Strategy	Fix-Up
Definition	Encourage self-monitoring and checking for understanding.
Application	Select a challenging piece to model the <i>Think Aloud</i> technique. While reading, interject questions* that make your thinking public and employ the strategies** to fix the problem.
Occurs	During Reading

Reading Strategy	Inferring
Definition	Give a logical guess based on the facts or evidence presented using prior knowledge to help "read between the lines".
Application	Take a sentence from a text. Have students state the explicit meaning*. They have students guess the inferential meaning**.
Occurs	During Reading

Reading Strategy	Key Words
Definition	Identify words that guide the reader to determine the organizational structure and content focus of the written text.
Application	Select excerpts of text from many sources, including (but not limited to) textbooks, pamphlets, and novels. Have students survey the text and list key words that indicate the structure or focus of the text.
Occurs	Before Reading, During Reading

Reading Strategy	Predicting
Definition	Use text to decide what will happen next-confirm as they read.
Application	Using the <i>Think, Pair, Share</i> technique, have students form predictions, share with a partner, and participate in a class discussion.
Occurs	Before Reading, During Reading

Reading Strategy	QAR
Definition	Use Q uestion A nswer R elationships to identify whether an answer will be found in the text.
Application	Have students label questions related to a text as "right there", "think and search", or "on my own". They should write a brief explanation of why each fits the category.
Occurs	Before Reading, During Reading, After Reading

Reading Strategy	Rereading
Definition	Give the reader more than one chance to make sense of challenging text.
Application	Have students practice rereading a passage to check for understanding and identify when rereading is helpful.
Occurs	During Reading

Reading Strategy	Restating
Definition	Retell, shorten, or summarizes the meaning of a passage orally or in written form.
Application	Have students practice restating a selection of text orally or in written form.
Occurs	During Reading

Reading Strategy	Setting a Purpose
Definition	Provide a focus for the reader.
Application	Have students read directions for a reading task and list the requirements. Students will then need to determine <i>why</i> they are being asked to read. Encourage students to set their own purposes when reading independently.
Occurs	Before Reading

Reading Strategy	Skimming/Scanning
Definition	Assist reader in getting specific info from the text. Skimming is reading quickly to get "gist" of a section. Scanning is reading quickly to locate specific information.
Application	Brainstorm a list of textual clues that will aid in skimming/scanning, such as bold-face type, capital letters, dates, key words, etc. Practice skimming and scanning with short passages.
Occurs	During Reading

Reading Strategy	Summarizing
Definition	Guide the reader to organize and restate info, usually in written form.
Application	Have students create similes about summarizing to understand what it looks like, such as "Summaries are like condensed milk." Have students complete graphic organizers or write summaries focusing on the beginning, middle, or end of text.
Occurs	During Reading, After Reading

Reading Strategy	Surveying
Definition	Give the reader a general idea about text so he/she will be able to anticipate info and structure.
Application	Use a textbook inventory/scavenger hunt activity to have students explore and familiarize themselves with an unfamiliar text.
Occurs	Before Reading, During Reading, After Reading

Reading Strategy	Think Aloud
Definition	Engage the reader in a metacognitive dialogue about his/her comprehension of text and the use of reading strategies.
Application	Select a piece of text and model conversation about the process a reader uses. For example, "I don't understand that sentence, I will reread it for clarity."
Occurs	Before Reading, During Reading, After Reading

Reading Strategy	Visualizing
Definition	Use mental images that emerge from reading the text to aid in understanding.
Application	Read aloud a descriptive passage while students close their eyes and imagine how it looks. Students then draw or write what they <i>see</i> and justify how the text supports their image.
Occurs	During Reading