

Reading Strategies

Summarize

A summary is a short statement of the most important ideas in a passage or a text.

- ◆ You must identify what a passage or selection is about - the most important ideas - and restate them in your own words, maintaining meaning and logical order.
- ◆ If you can summarize a part of the text, then you understand what it is mostly about and can then continue reading.

Visualize

You form a mental picture (or create sensory images in your mind) as you read or listen.

- ◆ When visualizing, you picture events, characters, and settings described in the text.
- ◆ If you do not think you are understanding what you read, or are having a hard time understanding a concept in the text, you can stop and try to picture it to help you make sense of the text.

Generate Questions

Good readers ask questions about a text before, during, and after reading. Then they look for answers.

- ◆ You should ask questions as you read, such as - **Do I understand what is happening in this part of the text? What does this word mean?**
- ◆ Good questions to ask include: Who? What? Why? Where? What if?
- ◆ Asking good literal, interpretive, and evaluative questions helps you focus on the most important information in a text.

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Make, Revise, and Confirm Predictions

When you predict, you use text clues, along with prior knowledge related to the text, to infer what might happen next in the story.

- ◆ Text clues may include a character's behavior, a series of cause-and-effect relationships, or a series of main events that influence future events.
- ◆ You can also use story structure or pattern of predictability to make logical guesses about upcoming story events or character actions.
- ◆ You should evaluate earlier predictions to either confirm their accuracy or to recognize that the original prediction must be revised.

Make Inferences

To make inferences, you need to call upon your understanding of the text, examine your own experiences related to the text, and conclude information based on these factors.

- ◆ Authors do not always tell you directly everything that takes place in the story or text, so you must take what details the author does offer and infer, or reasonably assume, certain conclusions.
- ◆ Making inferences helps you better understand the text and make logical predictions.

Evaluate

When you evaluate, you call upon your own critical judgment to understand a text.

- ◆ You need to be suspicious of biases, opinions presented as facts, and persuasive language or other techniques of persuasion.
- ◆ You also evaluate literary devices, such as personification or foreshadowing, to see how they might slant or prejudice your interpretation.
- ◆ Any judgment you make must be supported by the text.
- ◆ You should also evaluate materials you use during research. You need to make judgments about your sources: **Are the sources sound and reliable? What is the author's purpose - to entertain, persuade, or inform? How current is the information?**