

Reading Tips and Strategies

As you read this summer, you may wish to implement some of the strategies below to help you gain a deeper understanding and practice skills you will need next year in high school. Even if you just try one strategy, it could improve your reading. Some of these, you may already do as a reader – congrats! That is a good thing! You should print this sheet out and then check the strategies as you try them. Keeping post-its nearby is a great way to “write” in your book if it is not your copy! Happy Reading!

Strategy Name	Description
<i>Predict</i>	Playing detective is a fun way to improve reading! As you read, make guesses about what will happen next (Like what a character will decide? How an event will go? Etc.). You can discuss these with someone else or write them down on paper or post-its to check later. Be sure to think about why you made that prediction. What clues did you have?
Question (Before Reading)	Before reading the book, or a chapter, or small section, create questions that you think will be answered. You can use the book cover, chapter names (if given), or just your previous knowledge to create these questions. Again, you can discuss these or write them down on paper or post-its to check later. Like predicting, this allows you to guess what the content will be and then see how accurate you are as you read.
Question (During Reading)	As you read, it is normal for questions to come up. Instead of getting frustrated, write down the question you have on paper or post-its. If possible, you can bring up your question with others. Or, maybe as you read, it will be answered. If not, you can use your questions to discuss with others when you return to school.
Reread	Most readers do not understand everything in a selection by reading it only once. If you come across a confusing section (regardless of size), don't let your confusion win! Try to reread it. Most of the time, this will bring deeper meaning and clarification of what you did not understand before.
Vocabulary Check	One thing reading helps us do is increase our understanding of vocabulary. When you run across a word you do not know, you can write it down and look it up later, or look it up at that point. Keeping a running list of vocabulary terms is a great way to help you understand more words, which will help you in all future reading.
Read Aloud	This might seem awkward to some of you at first, but reading out loud is extremely beneficial to improving your reading ability. When you run across a part of your book that stands out to you, read it to someone else or even just out loud to yourself. You may be surprised how much this skill can bring deeper meaning and improve your reading ability. You may share funny, touching, or even confusing parts with others this way.
<i>Visualize</i>	As you read, be sure to try to create mental pictures of what you are reading about. If you are not used to doing this, at first it may seem difficult, but try it for small portions of the book. For example, if a part of the text is describing the setting, try to see what you think that looks like. If you like, you can even try to draw it. You can also do this for characters and scenes. The more the visualize, the more interesting your book will be – like TV or movies in your head!
<i>Connect</i>	As you read, see what connects with you and your life. Does a character remind you of someone in your life? Is a situation similar to one you have faced? Would you react like a character did to a situation or not? By doing this, you will be able to understand the book more and also learn about yourself and things you like and do not like.
<i>Journal</i>	As you read, keep an ongoing journal of your thoughts, questions, vocabulary, and favorite parts. This is a great way to help monitor your reading and allow you to share your ideas with others at a later time.