

READING CLOSELY FOR DETAILS: GUIDING QUESTIONS

APPROACHING TEXTS

Reading closely begins by considering my specific purposes for reading and important information about a text.

I am aware of my purposes for reading:

- Why am I reading this text?
- In my reading, should I focus on:
 - ⇒ The content and information about the topic?
 - ⇒ The structure and language of the text?
 - ⇒ The author's view?

I take note of information about the text:

- What is the title?
- Who is the author?
- What type of text is it?
- Who published the text?
- When was the text published?

QUESTIONING TEXTS

Reading closely involves:

1) initially questioning a text to focus my attention on its structure, ideas, language and perspective then

2) questioning further as I read to sharpen my focus on the specific details in the text.

I begin my reading with questions to help me understand the text and I pose new questions while reading that help me deepen my understanding:

Structure:

- How is the text organized?
- How has the author structured the sentences, lines, paragraphs, scenes or stanzas?

Topic, Information and Ideas:

- What information/ideas are presented at the beginning of the text?
- What stands out to me as I first examine this text?
- What information/ideas are described in detail?
- What do I learn about the topic as I read?
- How do the ideas relate to what I already know?
- What do I think this text is mainly about?

Language:

- What words or phrases stand out to me as I read?
- What words and phrases are powerful or unique?
- What do the author's words cause me to see or feel?
- What words do I need to define to better understand the text?
- What words and phrases are repeated?

Perspective:

- Who is the intended audience of the text?
- What is the author's/narrator's stance or attitude about the topic or theme?
- How does the author's language show his/her perspective?
- What is the author's personal relationship to the topic or themes?

ANALYZING DETAILS

Reading closely involves analyzing and connecting the details I have found through my questioning to determine their meaning, importance, and the ways they help develop ideas across a text.

I analyze the details I find through my questioning:

Patterns across the text:

- What does the repetition of words or phrases in the text suggest?
- How do details, information, characters or ideas change across the text?
- How do the text's structure and features influence my reading?

Meaning of Language:

- How do specific words or phrases impact the meaning of the text?
- What words or phrases are critical for my understanding of the text?

Importance:

- Which details are most important to the overall meaning of the text?
- Which sections are most challenging and require closer reading?

Relationships among details:

- How are details in the text related in a way that develops themes or ideas?
- What does the text leave uncertain or unstated? Why?

Anchor Standards for Reading

Standard 1

Reading closely and making logical inferences

Q: What does the text state explicitly?

Q: What is it about?

Standard 2

Reading to determine central Ideas and themes

Q: What is this text/article starting to be about?

Q: What ideas are you starting to see emerge?

Standard 3

Reading to analyze how individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of the text

Q: How are the central ideas connected?

Standard 4

Reading to interpret the language used in the text

Q: How does the language the author used shape the meaning of the text?

Q: Are some words more important or suggestive than others?

Standard 5

Reading to analyze the structure of the text

Q: How is the text organized?

Q: What is the purpose of the text?

Standard 6

Reading to assess the author's point of view and how it shapes the text

Q: How does the choice of words and the tone of the language illuminate the author's point of view?