

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?