

Understanding references & context (text to world)

Aqueliana

When reading historical text read the paragraph / passage, put the paragraph / passage into modern meaning you understand then try to visualize the scene.

Dale

Olga

Chloe

Nick

Ed

April

When reading an older novel, or a novel set in the past look up historical context to help you understand the mindset of the characters / author.

-April

Nick

Diego

When reading a very difficult text, take a small break and relax. A cleared mind will help you understand

-Diego

Diego

Understanding two texts together (text to text)

Grouping similarities

Jana Marinescu

While reading write down any details you find important. Group the details by their ~~similarities~~ similarities. Look at all of the groups and find similarities between them until you think you found the ~~main~~ major points.

Understanding textual structure

Goal: Understanding an author's argument in an essay

Core strategy: Make a basic outline of the argument the author uses in their essay. Include at least thesis, supporting evidence/details, and conclusions.

Variations:

- Annotate the essay using this structure—i.e. highlight and label the different parts of the argument's structure.

Understanding words & sentences

Goal: Understanding the significance of a word or image

Core strategy: Connotation web: pick one word or image that you think is significant but aren't sure why and write a list or draw a web of all the connotations of that thing that you can think of. Use a thesaurus or dictionary to help if you need to! Then go back to the text and see if you can find a new understanding of it. Annotate your new discoveries.

Variations:

Danny

Alex
C

Minha

Vera

Cesar

Writing to understand texts

Goal: Beating writer's block

Core strategy: Free write without stopping, about anything that comes to your mind.

Variations:

- Set a timer for 5 or 10 minutes and write for that entire time straight. See if any new ideas come out!
- Highlight a kernel or an emerging discovery from your free write, and then do a second, more focused free write to elaborate on that discovery.

Kelly
C:

Memo

Danny

Goal: Writing a persuasive essay

Core strategy: Make a basic outline of your argument: thesis, supporting evidence, and conclusion. Then fill in the other pieces (background info and preview for intro paragraph; topic sentences, supporting details, and connections for body paragraphs; summary of argument and farther-reaching implications for concluding paragraph).

Variations:

- Test that your thesis is arguable by trying to write the counterargument or the opposing thesis. (e.g. All people are inherently selfish. → All people are inherently good! or, Only rich people are inherently selfish.)
- Make your thesis deeper by asking "Why?" of it, then restating the thesis to include your reasoning.

Ruby
😊

Dele

Aquelbra

Danny

Jesse

Understanding characters & setting

Look for dichotomies in the text—what does it mean that X is described in a certain way but Y is not?

Minka

Daryl

Estevan

Kendra

Empathetic Reading

Date

Put yourself in the shoes of the character itself perceiving how he/she feels and try to experience the emotions they are feeling.

Try to connect with the character that's beyond the text.

This will help you connect with the character on a deeper level and have a better understanding of his or her situation.

Han Ju Seo

Visual Reading!

When you're reading a difficult text, and you don't really understand what's going on back track and read from what you do understand and as you start the difficult text try to imagine yourself as a stalker/3rd character following the character, thinking about what the character has done so far and what he/she might do next. Great for visual learners!

Han Ju!!

Ruby

Nick
V

Kelly
C

Goal: Understanding the significance of setting

Core strategy: Examine the scenery descriptions as if they were a character—how is it described? Are there any contrasts? Any repetitions? Any symbols?

Variations:

- Keep a list of relevant page numbers and/or key words in the back of the book or your journal

Pamela

Alfredo

Kelley
C.

Johnny

Megan

Chloe
K.

Goal: Comparing and contrasting two characters

Core strategy: Contrast two characters with circles in two different colors and summarize patterns at the bottom of each page.

Variations:

- Collect your contrasts in a Venn diagram and write conclusions about the comparison at the bottom.

Wendy

Goal: Understanding a character's emotions

Core strategy: Track the emotion words for characters and determine the patterns or anomalies in those words. Use color-coding, writing in the margins, or a circle-box system (circle emotion words for character #1 and box those for character #2)

Variations:

- In the back of the book or your journal, keep a list of page numbers with relevant emotion-related scenes or details for each character.

Ruby

Kendra

Danny

Amara

Esteran

Nick
V

Jessica
J

Janet

Annotating texts

Azah's ☺

Make a mark next to passages you feel have a lot of depth and refer to them later for further examination.

Yanet

Melwin
Rahn

Nick
V

Katrina

Dale
B

Yuliana
ocampo

Minha

Francisco

Diego

When annotating, making a key with a color code or symbol to represent the different aspects or literary devices in the novel.

Ruby ☺

Walter

Goal: Annotate to understand

Core strategy: Highlight the section you don't understand and write "I don't understand this part!" next to it so you can come back to it later. Then write down any ideas or questions you have, and see if you can make any connections between that part and any other part you've read. Later, once you've read further or discussed it, add other notes/annotations to clarify what you didn't get before.

Variations:

Sarah

Dale

Edmundo

ELISA

Nick
V

Kelly
C. ☺

Jada

Alex
Degado

H
G
S

Goal: Annotate to understand poetry

Core strategy: Annotate with surface meaning on the left and deeper meaning on the right. (Can be used for other types of text as well.)

Variations:

- Try to make connections between your observations on the left and the ones on the right.

Dilip

Jeff

Jada

Kenny

Core

Goal: Annotate using questions

Core strategy: Ask a question at the end of a paragraph or page.

Variations:

- Then use your own question as your journal prompt.

Sarah

Denny

April

Alfred

Mina

Yulianna

Pat

Goal: Annotate to understand

Core strategy: Make a list of clues from elsewhere in the text—direct and indirect—to help you. Then free write to try to make sense of them all together. Annotate your new discoveries.

Variations:

Denny

Goal: Annotate to understand

Core strategy: Highlight any sections of the text you didn't read closely the first time around and come back to them later. What do you notice now that you have more context? Annotate your new discoveries.

Variations:

Dilip

Yuliann

April

Hloe

Mina

Alfreda

Tanner

Kelly

Neal

Katrin

Yan

Alex

YULIANN

H.T

Denny

Nick