

How to Be a Good Reader

Ask yourself these questions to help you understand what you read:

Main Idea and Details

What is the story mostly about?
What tells me more about the main idea?

Sequence

What happens first, next, and last?
What are the steps to do something?

Cause and Effect

What happens? (the effect)
Why did it happen? (the cause)

Fact and Opinion

Can this be proved true?
Is it what someone thinks or believes?

Compare and Contrast

How are these people or things the same?
How are these people or things different?

Make Inferences

What clues does the story give?
What do I know already that will help?

Prediction

What clues does the story give?
What do I know already that will help?
What will happen next?

Character and Setting

Who or what is the story about?
Where and when does the story take place?

Theme

What lesson does this story teach?
How does the author feel about this topic?

Author's Purpose

Does the story entertain, inform, try to persuade me, or teach me how to do something?

Nonfiction Text Features

What kind of text am I reading?
What does it tell me?

Visual Information

Is there a picture, chart, or graph?
What does it tell me?
