

Lesson 05: Reading Strategies and Comprehension

Lesson Objectives:

- Students will apply various reading skills for literary experience, information, and/or performing a task (e.g., skimming, scanning, note taking).
- Students will extend note-taking skills to process and organize information.
- Students will locate and label specific information in text - main and supporting ideas, specific facts, statistics, definitions.

These steps can be applied to any reading assignment:

- Step 1 - Pre-reading and prediction
- Step 2 - Skimming
- Step 3 - Looking for cognates
- Step 4 - Looking for meaning through context
- Step 5 - Careful reading
- Step 6 - Applying what they have read

Step 1: Pre-reading and prediction

Before you begin to read, you can use prior knowledge to predict what information may be in the selection. You can get clues from the title, the subject, or even an accompanying picture.

Step 2: Skimming/scanning

Read through the selection quickly to find any additional information. This information can augment and modify information from the pre-reading stage.



Step 3: Looking for cognates

To further refine the understanding of the passage, look for unfamiliar words that are similar to other words you already know.

Step 4: Looking for meaning through context

You can sometimes get the meanings of unfamiliar words by looking at the context where the words are found.

Step 5: Careful reading

Too often, readers begin with this step, find the passage difficult, get discouraged, and quit reading. With the preceding steps, you are better equipped to read a selection.

Step 6: Application

The application step taps your creativity and higher-level thinking skills. In this step, apply the concepts of the reading passage to a new situation.

Reading comprehension includes knowing what words mean, or defining them. Understanding how pronouns relate to nouns in sentences is also a part of reading comprehension. It also includes understanding the meaning of phrases. Some reading comprehension involves literal answers, or answers that are right there in the passage. Others are inferential, or answers come from what you know combined with the information in the passage. The author may suggest something in the passage. Another type of reading comprehension asks the reader to identify the main idea of the passage. The main idea is never very specific; it is a general, overall topic of the passage.

Grading Rubric:

To get a 10: All answers are correct the first time, or within the first revision. You can have no grammatical errors, within the first revision. Answer is in complete sentences; all lesson requirements have been met.

To get a 9: You can have 1 incorrect answer and 1 or 2 grammatical errors (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, wrong word, run-on sentences, sentence fragments, etc.). Answer is in complete sentences; all lesson requirements have been met.

To get an 8: You can have 1 incorrect answer and 3 grammatical errors (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, wrong word, run-on sentences, sentence fragments, etc.). Answer is in complete sentences; all lesson requirements have been met.

To get a 7: You can have 1 incorrect answer and 4 grammatical errors (spelling, punctuation,



capitalization, wrong word, run-on sentences, sentence fragments, etc.) OR all answers are correct but several grammatical errors remain. Answer is in complete sentences; all lesson requirements have been met.

To get a 6: You can have 2 incorrect answers and 5 grammatical errors (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, wrong word, run-on sentences, sentence fragments, etc). Answer is in complete sentences; lesson requirements have been met.

To get a 5: Plagiarism - purposeful or mistaken which will lower your final grade for the course (so be very careful when posting your work!); lack of effort, disrespect, or attitude (we are here to communicate with you if you don't understand something).

Be aware that you will have a chance to revise your work. More than 2 revisions will result in a lower grade, so read the directions carefully and make sure you meet the requirements.

Assignment:

Do not submit text that you have copied from sources, including websites. All of your work should be in your own words. Using copied text would be considered plagiarism. For more information, review our page on [Plagiarism and Citation](#)

There are two parts to this lesson. You need to complete both parts.

Part 1:

Read the following passages and answer the questions below. List only the question number and answer. There are a total of eight questions.

Whitmore School seeks to provide a supportive, challenging, and alternate learning environment. Students are encouraged to be in charge of their education, giving them the opportunity to develop creativity, independence, responsibility, time management, and critical-thinking skills. We emphasize mastery of all academic courses, allowing students to view themselves as capable of achieving their educational goals.

1. What type of environment can be found at Whitmore School?

- A. different
- B. encouraging
- C. responsible
- D. critical

2. What does *alternate* mean?

- A. different
- B. allowing a choice



- C. orthodox
- D. special

3. What does *mastery* mean?

- A. power over
- B. to overcome
- C. confidence
- D. proficiency

If a student plagiarizes, he will get a failing grade for that lesson and be required to rewrite the plagiarized paper (in his own words). This will lower his final grade.

4. In the second sentence of this paragraph, the word *his* refers to _____?

There was a concentrated effort to find a solution to the problem. Every scientist worked long, hard hours to find the cure.

5. The phrase "concentrated effort" is closest in meaning to:

- A. a thick effort
- B. a difficult effort
- C. a strong effort
- D. a short effort

There are more than fifty independent nations in Africa. Sudan is the largest, and Nigeria has the most people.

6. Which independent nation in Africa has the most people?

- A. Sudan
- B. Lybia
- C. Algeria
- D. Nigeria

Outside the frosty kitchen window, Shaena could see the snow falling, illuminated by the porch light. As the water heated for her tea, she hastily gathered the information for her project and looked at her watch. With a deep



sigh, she began her work, hoping the snow would continue throughout the night, resulting in a snow day tomorrow.

7. According to the above passage, why is Shaena hoping for a snow day?

- A. She wants to go sleigh riding.
- B. She wants to drink more tea.
- C. Her project is due tomorrow.
- D. It's going to be a long night.

Many smokers stare at themselves in the mirror, asking, "How do I quit?" It's hard. Tobacco, in the form of cigarettes, is the most addictive drug in the world--right up there with crack cocaine. There are two reasons for this: Nicotine is one of the strongest stimulants known, and smoking is one of the most efficient drug-delivery systems.

8. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. How smokers can quit
- B. Why smoking is addictive
- C. Nicotine is like cocaine
- D. Why it is difficult to quit smoking.

Part 2:

Reading Comprehension

Find an article online that contains a main idea, supporting ideas, specific facts, and statistics. Provide the article and its source. (I need to be able to go to the link to check it.) Then, in 200 -- 500 words, identify the main and supporting ideas, specific facts, statistics, and definitions (where applicable).

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