

How to Read Like You Own It

We bet that a lot of the work you are assigned at home during this break involves reading. Sometimes you want to just start with the first word and get to the last word so you can say, "I 'finished' reading."

But this is a waste of your time because *true reading* means you are strategic and that you understand exactly what the author is saying—both directly and in-between the lines. For you to be successful and take ownership of your reading at home, you need to think about and reflect on how you understand and make meaning from text.

The reading strategies on the next page will show you the **Strategic Reading Process** that will help you make sure you understand what you're reading every time you read. One of the best ways to use this process is by talking through each step with someone—this can be a classmate, this can be a sibling, this can be any relative in the house with you, or this can be with yourself.

But first, before you begin reading, you will need to clarify:

- What am I learning and how will I know I've learned it?
- How will reading this text help me learn it?
- How will I know I have read the text correctly?

Now, get ready to read using the **Strategic Reading Process** found on the next page.

Strategic Reading Process

(for Kids)

You will be reading and using these strategies one passage at a time. A passage can be one paragraph, or a few paragraphs. Before you begin, break the whole text into passages. Then, follow the process to understand what the author is trying to tell you in each passage.

- ▶ **Read** the passage aloud. *Reading aloud helps you hear the words and ideas.*
- ▶ **Question** the text. Ask and answer some questions. Pretend you are the teacher and you are checking to see if you understood the most important points. Ask explicit questions—the answers are easy to find and right in the passage. Ask implicit questions—the answers aren't so obvious and take thinking. *Asking and answering questions helps you know if you really understand the passage.*
- ▶ **Clarify** any words, phrases, or ideas that you don't understand in the passage. Stop and think about how the author is telling you the information. Do you understand each of the words, phrases, or ideas the author is using? If not, find out what the author means by using context clues, the glossary, or asking someone. *Clarifying information helps you stay on track as you continue reading.*
- ▶ **Summarize** the passage. Explain what you just read using your own words. Only tell the main ideas. See if you can do this in ten words or less. *Summarizing helps you solidify the information in your brain.*
- ▶ **Predict** what you will be reading next. Use context clues, text supports (titles, subheads, etc.), and other evidence to make your guess and explain your thinking. *Predicting will keep you on track as you continue reading.*
- ▶ **Take notes** once you feel you have clearly understood the passage. You want these notes to be as accurate as possible so that you can use them later.

After you finish the process for one passage, follow it again for each passage until you have completed reading the whole text.