

Active Reading

Many of us, while we are reading, daze off into space and after a few pages wonder...what in the world did I just read about? In an effort to make the most out of the time we are spending reading, this activity is going to help us practice our active reading strategies. Ultimately, this will save us time because we won't have to reread or go over the ideas that we have already read about.

While reading *Of Mice and Men*, I would like you to complete ONE of the following SIX active reading strategies for each chapter. You must use different strategies for each chapter (six chapters=six strategies).

Six Active Reading Strategies:

1. **MARK OR HIGHLIGHT:** Highlight and record important words, phrases, and sentences. This will help you later when you are studying for a test or rereading for a writing assignment. Put quotes around these words, phrases, or sentences if they are direct quotes and also explain why you think they are significant.
2. **ASK QUESTIONS:** Write down questions that you have while you are reading. What does this mean? Why is the writer talking about this? Questioning will help you think more critically about a text.
3. **CLARIFY:** Take notes that clarify ideas and details learned from the particular chapter. A great deal is happening when you are reading. You are taking in information and responding to it at the same time. For example, jot down a sequence of events or list of important details.
4. **VISUALIZE:** Visualize the people and actions an author describes. Visualizing helps you "see" and remember the main ideas that the author is presenting. Make a sketch of a particular scene that will help you remember.
5. **PREDICT:** Active readers constantly ask themselves: how will things turn out? What will happen next? Stop and write your predictions as you make your way through a chapter.
6. **REACT AND CONNECT:** Record your own thoughts, feelings, and reactions while you are reading. Think about how the writing makes you feel and reminds you about in your own life. Compare and contrast the author's ideas or a character's experiences to your own.