

## How to achieve understanding and high marks

Take notes while reading. Try to...

- **Predict** (how things will turn out)
- **Visualize** (the scene and characters)
- **Connect** (to stories and events you know)
- **Question** (why things happen the way they do)
- **Clarify** (words and situations you are confused by)
- **Evaluate** (your progress and understanding while reading)

### Develop a Plan of Action to Read for understanding / complete an assignment.

Pre-Reading/Assignment Questions to ask yourself:

- **What do I already know about this?** (*Skim the information/notes*)
- **What do I NOT understand?** (*Note questions about the information/notes*)
- **What goal am I trying to achieve?** (*Read the Instructions*)
- **What do I do first?** (*Read the Instructions, Again*)
- **Why am I reading this?** (*One more time*)
- **How much time do I have to do this?** (*Check your “schedule”*)

While Reading / Writing Questions:

- **How am I doing?** (*Stop at comfortable places and summarize*)
- **Am I on the right track?** (*Read Assignment Instructions*)
- **What is important to remember?** (*Keep Track of Characters, Plot Points and Confusion*)
- **Should I move in a different direction?** (*Look over notes at the end of each “section”*)

Post-Reading / Writing Questions:

- **How do I think I did?** (*Re-read assignment instructions / Write brief summary*)
- **Did I produce more or less than I expected?** (*Check requirements, i.e. Word count, carefully*)
- **What could I have done differently?** (*Re-read assignment*)
- **How can I apply this line of thinking to other situations?** (*review what worked and what didn't*)
- **Do I need to go back and “fill in the gaps” of what I didn't understand?** (*Compare to notes / prepare questions for class / check online sources*)

### **Simple advice**

For every 30 minutes of homework, give yourself a 5 minute break.

Read and Edit homework carefully.

Take notes on your assignments and keep separate from assignment, just in case...

### **Study Tips**

Study in a quiet place.

DO NOT STUDY IN BED

Turn off cell phone and TV (remove pet from room)

Have writing utensils, reading, notes and assignments in arms reach

Review daily. Notes, Readings (including pre-assigned), Returned assignments.

Use the internet correctly to help in understanding and correcting misunderstanding.

Note questions to ask in class.

Make use of tutors and librarian during activity periods and study halls.

Schedule appointments to meet with teacher.

- Have questions ready.
- Make sure your notes are legible.
- Bring notebook, writing utensil and assignment
- **TURN YOUR CELL PHONE OFF**
- Keep the appointment.

### **Test Study Tips**

- Collect all the necessary notes and texts.
- Go over worksheets and quizzes.
- Correct answers you got wrong by looking through the text.
- Make notes of what you got wrong. **NOT** what you got correct.
- Make notes of what you didn't understand.
- Take stock of what sources you have at your disposal (internet, library sources, friends, Power Points, etc.).