

Thieves:

A Strategy for Previewing Textbooks

This pre-reading strategy helps you “steal” information before you actually begin reading the chapter.

Title:

Don't skip the title, it gives you a hint on what the chapter is about. Ask yourself questions while you look at the title:

- What do I already know about this topic?
- How does it connect to the previous chapter?
- How can I turn this title into a question to focus my reading?

Headings:

Headings tell you the important sections of the chapter. They help you identify the specific topics covered. You can turn the headings into questions to find the information covered in the chapter. Ask yourself questions while looking at the headings.

- How does this heading let me know what I will be reading about?
- What topic will be discussed in the paragraphs below this heading?
- How can I turn this heading into a question that can be answered when I read this section?

Introduction:

The introduction gives you an overview of the chapter. Sometimes the goals and objectives of the chapter are stated in the introduction. Ask yourself questions when previewing the introduction.

- Is the introduction marked or do I have to locate it?
- Does the first paragraph introduce the chapter?
- What important information will I find in the introduction?
- Do I already know anything about this?

Each Paragraph's First Sentence:

The first sentence is often the topic sentence of the paragraph. By reading these you can get an idea of the information that will be in the chapter.

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Visuals and Vocabulary:

Look at all pictures, charts, tables, maps and graphs contained in the chapter. Read the captions and labels on each. This enables you to learn a little more about the topic before you begin to read. Ask yourself questions about the visuals.

- How do these visuals relate to the content of this chapter?
- What can I learn from them?
- How do the captions help me understand the visual?

Vocabulary unlocks the meaning of the content. You need to understand vocabulary in order to comprehend the text. Vocabulary may or may not be identified as key words. It might be highlighted or italicized in the text. Ask yourself questions about the vocabulary and use your textbook's glossary or a dictionary to look up unfamiliar words.

- Is there a list of key words and are they defined in the glossary?
- Are there important words in boldface or italics?
- Do I know the important words?
- Are there other words I don't know?

End of Chapter Questions:

These questions indicate important points and concepts from the chapter. Just reading these questions will help you target information that is important in the text and establish a purpose for reading. Ask yourself questions about the end-of-chapter questions.

- What do these questions ask?
- What information will be important in this chapter?
- How do I locate this information in the text?

Use these strategies every time you read a chapter, and you'll be on your way to getting caught 'red-handed' with reading comprehension!

Visit our website to learn more:
<http://www.gearupwaco.org>

