

Reading Aids: Suggestions for Teachers

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Skillfull readers do a lot of mental work while reading which comes so naturally that they may not notice it. Readers who are not yet so skillfull can benefit from reading aids that encourage and help them to do the same sort of mental work that a skillfull reader does.

1. Teacher-made (these may have blanks for students to fill in)

- Outline
- Glossary
- Summary
- Pictures
- Diagram or other graphic organizer
- Questions that direct attention to important points

2. Made by the student during reading

- Notes
- Graphic organizer (timeline, jot chart, map, etc.)
- Drawing
- Quotes from the reading
- Writing interpretive questions
- Journal entries
- Highlighting phrases or passages
- Comments on post-its
- Vocabulary list
- Categorizing information

3. Existing aids

- Dictionaries
- Encyclopedias
- Textbook glossaries
- Reader's guides
- Reviews
- Cliff's Notes
- Film or video versions
- Websites
- Internet search engines

4. Techniques that aid reading

- Pre-reading survey of text
- Generating questions while reading
- Answering specific questions while reading
- Searching the text for specific information
- Reading aloud
- Listening to tapes or someone reading aloud
- Paired or small-group reading
- Reciprocal Teaching (<http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/students/atrisk/at6lk38.htm>)
- Discussions
- Acting out scenes
- Techniques for reading different genres (teacher models these through think-aloud reading)

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