



## Strategic Reading 5-6 Syllabus

### Course Goals

#### 1 Reading Strategies

Students learn strategies to help with their reading comprehension and ability to retain material.

#### 2 Responding to Texts

Students learn how to write thoughtful responses to materials they have read.

#### 3 Understanding Rhetorical Situation

Students learn how to understand a text more deeply by considering its audience, author's background, persuasive strategies, and context.

### Course Topics

#### 1 Close Reading

Students learn how to read material closely to gather specific details.

#### 2 Annotations

Students learn how to take notes on and annotate reading material for retention.

#### 3 Genres

Students read and write across a variety of different genres and styles.

#### 4 Organization

Students learn how to use topic sentences and supporting details to clarify their writing.

#### 5 Outlining

Students learn how to make an outline of the material they have read to enhance retention.

#### 6 Interpretation

Students learn how to uncover the main point and themes of a reading.

#### 7 Paraphrasing

Students learn how to quickly and effectively summarize material they have read.

#### 8 Questioning

Students think critically about what they have read and discuss their thoughts as a class.

#### 9 Skimming

Students learn how to skim through reading material to gather the main points quickly.

#### 10 Cause and Effect

Students analyze texts by considering how certain outcomes are the product of a series of decisions.

#### 11 Rhetorical Devices

Students learn how to strengthen their writing using dialogue, active verbs, and sensory language.

## Course Schedule

### Day 1

#### Introduction

Students introduce themselves and discuss the importance of reading strategically.

#### Close-Reading

Students read a fiction selection and practice close-reading to gather information from context clues.

#### Previewing

Students learn how to gain an overview of a reading selection by looking at the titles and photo captions.

#### Film Review

Students write their own movie review after previewing and discussing one.

### Day 2

#### Spelling Exercise

Students practice their spelling and learn about words that may be commonly misspelled.

#### Annotation

Students learn how to annotate a reading selection then practice this strategy. They write an essay related to the material they annotated.

#### Note-Taking

Students learn how to take effective notes to emphasize information and review points later.

### Day 3

#### Outlining

Students learn how to outline the material they read so their notes are more organized.

#### Point of View

Students learn how to write from a different perspective.

### Day 4

#### Vocabulary

Students learn new vocabulary words and discuss their potential uses.

#### Interpretation

Students interpret poetry to understand what the author is hoping the audience will take from the poem.

#### Short Story

Students analyze the word choice in a given short story.

#### Haikus

Students learn how to use sensory language in their writing by creating a haiku.

## **Day 5**

### **Paraphrasing**

Students learn how to put material in their own words to ensure retention.

### **Persuasion**

Students analyze advertisements and use persuasive techniques to write their own advertisements and letters.

## **Day 6**

### **Questioning**

Students learn how to generate questions to identify uncertainties about the reading.

### **Plays**

Students learn about plays and how to write a script.

## **Day 7**

### **Skimming**

Students learn how to skim material to get the main idea of a piece.

### **Newspaper Articles**

Students create a class newspaper, while learning the distinction between subjective and objective writing.

## **Day 8**

### **Fiction Discussion**

Students read a work of fiction and participate in a detailed discussion of it.

### **Cause and Effect**

Students analyze cause and effect in fictional stories.

## **Day 9**

### **Summarization**

Students learn how to summarize a piece of literature to explain it to others.

### **Comics**

Students discuss comics and what makes them effective, then they write their own comic strip.

## **Day 10**

### **Review**

Students practice summarization and discuss further reading tips.

### **Synthesizing**

Students learn how to form new ideas based on the material they've read.

### **Free Writing**

Students write about a topic of their choice, then they reflect on the class as a whole.

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