
Read Like a Grownup Summary

Step #1: Plan

1. Make a reading list.
 - A. Include classics, nonclassics, and whimsy.
 - B. Give a short reason why you want to read each title.
2. Choose a time and place to read.
 - A. Either 10 min everyday or 4, 30-min sessions each week
 - B. Pick a comfortable, well-lit spot.



Step #2: Annotate

1. Read and annotate the first section (chapter, act, etc.) of the book.
 - A. Underline, Checkmark, Asterisk, and Dog-Ear
 - B. Q(uote) and Question Mark
2. Write a paragraph in your reading journal summarizing the main idea of the section.
3. Write your response to the section you just read in a different color ink (or font).
4. Repeat steps #1-3 for each section until you finish the book.
5. Write a summary paragraph that describes the main idea of the entire book.

Step #3: Analyze

1. Identify the climax of the plot or the center of the argument.
 - A. Where are the beginning, middle, and end?
 - B. What are the most important parts?
2. Determine what the author hopes to accomplish in this story.
 - A. Inform, persuade, give an emotional experience?
 - B. What is the central theme, the main idea the author wants to convey?
3. Decide whether the author succeeds. Why or why not?

Step #4: Apply

1. Write a Book Bones for the book.
 - A. Copy your Quick Summary from your reading journal (step #2).
 - B. Write Key Insights—the most important insights from your reading journal.
 - C. Write Personal Applications—they should be concrete, specific, and measurable.
 - D. Compile a list of Important Quotes.
2. Discuss your reading journal, analysis, and book bones with a reading partner.