

See images

Can you picture what is happening? Can you describe these images to the others in your group? Are your visions different to other readers?



Feel involved

Run! Go on. Get out of there!
Watch out! Oh no!
How has the writer wanted me to feel?
How has he/she achieved this?



Hear a voice through the text

Whose do you hear? How does it sound? How does it alter as the story ebbs and flows? How do the central characters sound? Do you hear the noises of the action - birdsong? Car tyres screeching? Explosions? Laughter? Music? What kinds? Does your so undtrack tell us something about the characters in the story / play? What?



Empathise

It's just like when I... That's just what I'd do.



Rationalise what is happen-

So if he's an angel why does he poo pellets?



Speculate about characters and

It's the vicar's wife who does it and she buries them in the church crypt while her husband is bellringing.



Predict what will happen

Can you work out where the plot is heading? Be ready to tell where you think this is all leading. Don't worry if you're wrong. Sometimes the author wants to trick you. Try to keep one jump ahead. Share your expectations and revise them in the light of what happens.



Reread

Go back over the best bits, check your suspicions, enjoy it again. Sometimes you need to revisit to make sense.



Ask questions

Why is he doing that? Why does he keep a goldfish in the freezer? What does that tattoo of a rose on his bottom signify? Why has the author presented him like this, what effect is he/she after?



Re-interpret

Keep checking and evaluating your ideas. Rework them e.g. perhaps Doctor Death carried out genetic experiments and Skellig...



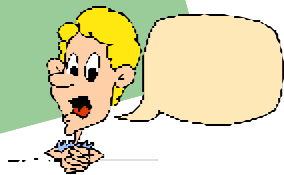
Interpret patterns

Storytellers and playwrights rely on our previous reading experiences to make connections; they use structures which tease our understanding, they lead us down alleyways, they trick us. Readers who can infer and deduce, see the patterns, they keep a lookout for the shape in the shadows - they constantly strive to make sense out of the seemingly random nature of events.



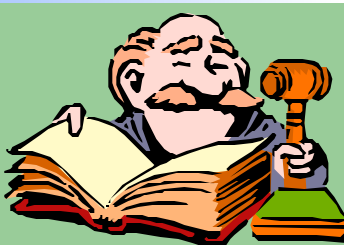
Pass comments

I hope he gets what he deserves! Not while there's a breath in my body would I do that! She's so slimy! Why has the author...?



Pass judgements

This is the most confusing load of twaddle I've ever had the misfortune to...



Establish a relationship with the writer/narrator

He seems to remember things so clearly even though it was fifty years ago. It's like we're there together and he's just explaining what's taking place.



Relate to previous reading experiences

I liked that one about the chocolate factory but this is more scary.



Relate to your own experience

I once saw this television programme where...



Relate to the social, historical and cultural background

It sounds sexist, but in those days no one expected a middle-class woman to work.

