

Middle and High School Reading: Tips for Students

Teachers and a high school student give practical advice for becoming a successful reader in middle and high school.

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The keys to becoming a successful reader in middle and high school include learning organization skills and sophisticated reading strategies.

Laura Hendrick, a literacy coach advises:

- 1. Create an organization system at home.** Keep binders neat and have a file for completed papers.
- 2. Practice reading.** Read every day and particularly during the summer-the more practice the better; it doesn't matter what genre you read, just make sure you are reading.
- 3. Reading tips for textbooks:** Read questions at the end of the chapter first; use headings and subheadings as cues.
- 4. Spend time in middle school developing good reading strategies.** When you get to high school, teachers are more likely to concentrate on the content rather than on developing reading skills.

In their book, *Reading for Understanding: A Guide to Improving Reading in Middle and High School Classrooms*, authors Ruth Schoenbach, Cynthia Greenleaf, Christine Cziko and Lori Hurwitz advise the following for students who get confused when reading a text:

1. Ignore the unclear part and read on to see if it gets clearer.
2. Reread the unclear part.
3. Reread the sentence(s) before the unclear part.
4. Try to connect the unclear part to something you already know.

