Before Reading

I think about the cover, the title, and the author. I think about what I know about the topic.

I skim, looking at and thinking about any visual material.

I read chapter titles.

I read the back cover and information on the inside of the book jacket.

I look at the end of the book to see if there are discussion questions or other materials related to the book.

I ask questions about what I expect to learn from this book.

I make predictions about character and the ending, especially if the book is fiction.

I research the book’s topic so I have some background knowledge.

During Reading

I make mental pictures.

I identify confusing parts and reread them, either aloud or while listening with my inner ear.

I use any visual material (charts, graphs, photographs, diagrams, maps) to understand confusing parts.

I identify unfamiliar words and use context clues to figure out their meanings. When that doesn’t help, I use a dictionary.

I stop periodically and retell to see what I remember. If necessary, I reread.

I predict what I think will come next. Then as I read, I confirm or adjust my predictions.

I raise questions and read on to discover answers.

I make a list of characters or key terms and use it as a bookmark.

If I can write in the book, I write a brief summary phrase or sentence at the top of each page. If I can’t write in the book, I do this on sticky notes.

After Reading

I think about the characters, settings, events, or new information and think about if I would recommend the book to others.

I discuss or write my reactions and attempt to answer any remaining questions I might have.

I reread parts I enjoy.

I skim to find details.

I write a brief summary at the end of each chapter.

After I finish the book, I reread the first chapter to get a fuller understanding of the book.