

# Active Reading Strategies

Good readers think while they read. Every so often they stop and check their understanding. They predict what might happen next. They question what they're reading. After they finish, they think about what they read. Each strategy below happens in a good reader's mind while he or she is reading.

## CONNECT

Think about your own life when you read something. Think of something similar that you have gone through, seen, or heard.

## VISUALIZE

Make a picture in your mind of what the text says. Imagine you are looking at what is described.

## PREDICT

Try to guess what will happen next in the story or article. Then read on to find out if your guess was correct.

## QUESTION

Let questions come to your mind when you read. If something doesn't make sense, don't pass it by. Ask or write a question to yourself. Look for answers as you read.

## CLARIFY

Slow down and make sure you understand what you're reading. Reread something to make sure you understood what it meant. As you read farther, expect to understand or to find out more.

These are ways you can clarify your understanding:

- Sum up what happened in your own words, or summarize.
- Identify the main idea of the paragraph, especially in nonfiction.
- Make inferences about what the author meant but didn't say. Read between the lines and use your own experience to figure it out.

## EVALUATE

Form opinions about what you read as you read it. Evaluate again after you read it.

The examples on the pages that follow show how each strategy works. The examples are from "Saved Us," by Ken Mochizuki. It is about a Japanese-American boy and his friends who were in a prison camp. The boy and the others tried to keep their spirits up.

## CONNECT

Think about your own life when you read something similar that you have gone through.

Back in school, before Camp, I was always better than the rest of the kids. I was always the star player for any team when we played games.

**READER CONNECTS:** I know how he feels. I was last for basketball games, and it's embarrassing. I make noises and says, "Okay, I guess I'll take you."

## VISUALIZE

Make a picture in your mind of what the text says. Imagine you are looking at what is described.

This Camp wasn't anything like the daytime and so cold at night. I got sand in everything, and nobody sometimes got caught outside, standing in the snow. I had to go to the bathroom.

**READER VISUALIZES:** In my mind I see a swirl, everything hazy like a fog. There is a blizzard but it's dust.