

THIEVES Pre-Reading Strategy

THIEVES is a pre-reading strategy that sets the purpose for reading using an easily remembered acronym. Students learn how to “steal” information from the text before they actually read it. Using THIEVES helps readers to identify important concepts, establish a context for reading, and predict what ideas might be contained in a text passage.

T

Title

Read the title of the chapter and predict what the chapter is about.

H

Headings

Look at all headings and the table of contents. Turn them into questions that the text will probably answer.

I

Introduction

Read the introduction and any questions or summaries at the beginning. Predict the main idea.

E

Everything I know about it

Think of everything I have seen, read, or done that may relate to this text.

V

Visuals

Look at pictures, graphs, diagrams, or maps, and read their captions. Notice lists with letters or numbers that point out important information. Read all the notes in the margins and notice bold and italicized words.

E

End of chapter material

Read end-of-chapter material, such as summaries or questions that I will try to answer by reading.

S

So what?

Why did the author write this? Why am I reading this? Knowing the purposes helps me comprehend.