

The ALPHA & OMEGA of Passage Analysis

~ The Reader's Mindset ~

Student's Deliberate Actions!

Analyze *cause, captions, & canvas*. Know your purpose. Titles & graphics reflect ideas & settings.

Look then reflect as you read. Preview the body of work. Know when re-reading is required!

Picture the panorama in the prose. Focus on *adjectives, actions, and atmosphere*.

Hold tightly to the tidbits. Deliberately memorize and merge related details for cause & effect.

Assimilate all paragraph points. Summarize separate sentences into a single statement.

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Offer objective observations. Consider and critique the author's messages and methods.

Match the people with the problems. Find the character / conflict connections?

Examine your everyday existence. Relate your present reading to your present reality.

Graph your margin memos. Create sequential summaries of the significant sections.

Associate the author, audience, and arena. Know who's speaking to whom, where, & why?

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Student's Metacognitive Queries?

Analyze *cause, captions, & canvas*. Know your purpose. Titles & graphics reflect ideas & settings.

- Q1. Must I *quickly skim* this passage for general ideas; *slowly scan* it for specific details, *methodically peruse* (study) it for deep understanding, or *painstakingly dissect* it for every possible fact and feature to accomplish my reading purpose?
- Q2. Have I used the title(s) and graphics to find clues about the main idea(s) of this passage?
- Q3. Have I used the title(s) & graphics to figure out the probable time and place of this scenario?

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- Q4. Have I previewed the body of writing to determine the scope of this reading project?
- Q5. Can I explain what's happening in every sentence, paragraph, and section?
- Q6. Am I sure that everything I read made perfect sense to me and fit in with everything else?
- Q7. Do I need to re-read any portion of the passage or research any unfamiliar terms?

Picture the panorama in the prose. Focus on *adjectives, actions, and atmosphere*.

- Q8. Can I clearly see the events that are happening and the scenes that are being described?
- Q9. Do I have a *feel* and a *sense* of the mood(s) (attitudes and emotions) that are created by the images and actions?

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- Q10. Am I underlining (literally and/or mentally) the key details I need to remember?
- Q11. Do I know and understand what's causing the main events to happen?
- Q12. Do I know how all of the events or happenings are related to each other?
- Q13. Can I sequentially re-tell this account detail for detail?

Assimilate all paragraph points. Summarize separate sentences into a single statement.

- Q14. Do I see how each of the details in each paragraph unites to create one clear picture?
- Q15. Do I know what each paragraph is *mostly* about?
- Q16. Do I understand how each paragraph's message supports the passage's overall message?

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Offer objective observations. Consider and critique the author's messages and methods.

Q17. Can I state and explain the exact messages that the author is trying to convey?

Q18. Do I believe that the author's messages are viable, logical, and worthy of consideration?

Q19. Do I know what devices and techniques (logic, hyperbole, flashbacks, analogies, metaphors, word choice, humor, sarcasm, etc) the author uses to help convey the key message(s)?

Match the people with the problems. Find the character / conflict connections?

Q20. Do I know whether or not the characters in this passage are creating the conflicts?

Q21. Do I know whether or not the characters in this passage are victimized by the conflicts?

Q22. Do I know whether or not the characters in this passage are benefiting from the conflicts?

Examine your everyday existence. Relate your present reading to your present reality.

Q23. Do I know how the people and the situations in this passage are *similar* to any people or situations that I already know?

Q24. Do I know how the people and the situations in this passage *differ* from any people or situations that I already know?

Graph your margin memos. Create sequential summaries of the significant sections.

Q25. Are my margin memos creating meaningful summaries of each key section?

Q26. Are my summarized sections creating a summarized version of the passage?

Q27. Can I read my summarized version and know all the key points of the original passage?

Associate the author, audience, and arena. Know who's speaking to whom, where, & why?

Q28. Do I know whether the author (or narrator) is a part of the account or an outside observer?

Q29. Can I name all of the (main) speakers in this passage?

Q30. Can I name all of the (main) audience members being addressed?

Q31. Do I know where everything takes place and why that is an appropriate setting?

Q32. Do I know the author's purpose or motivation for writing this passage?

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*Teacher's Annotations**

Analyze *cause, captions, & canvas*. Know your purpose. Titles & graphics reflect ideas & settings.

Your reading strategy is always based upon your reading purpose. Skim to see the scope of the ideas; scan to know key details; peruse to be able to astutely discuss; or dissect to be able to teach. Titles always include subtitles. Graphics always include any footnotes connected with the image(s). Ideas can be main ideas that include plot items, or themes that include messages and lessons. Settings are the times & places that host the scenarios.

Look then reflect as you read. Preview the body of work. Know when re-reading is required!

A preview can be a quick skimming of titles, graphics, and the reading of topic & summary sentences at the beginning and end of paragraphs. Re-reading can involve single sentences, paragraphs, or sections. Re-read as soon as the need is recognized. Don't wait till the end to decide that some or all of the messages were not clear.

Picture the panorama in the prose. Focus on *adjectives, actions, and atmosphere*.

Every reading experience includes your imagination (your mind's eye). Allow yourself to participate in the passage. Try to go where the characters go, do what they do, see what they see, hear what they hear, and feel what they feel.

Hold tightly to the tidbits. Deliberately memorize & merge related details for cause & effect.

Before every reading, decide that you are going to remember every detail. Mental underlining is often as effective as literal underlining. Everything that happens in an account happens for reasons. Know those reasons.

Assimilate all paragraph points. Summarize separate sentences into a single statement.

All of the information in a well-written paragraph is related. Look for those relationships. What a paragraph is mostly about is always the main idea of it. It is usually the one (general) idea that connects all the others.

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Offer objective observations. Consider and critique the author's messages and methods.

Always evaluate what an author's message is saying. What you think about it matters! Make sure you have reasons for your judgments. Did the author use effective literary devices to get the message across? Would you have used the same ones? Know what your answers are, and know why!

Match the people with the problems. Find the character / conflict connections?

Knowing whether a character created a problem helps to characterize that person. Knowing whether the character is the victim usually helps to establish the protagonist / antagonist (hero / villain) relationships. This clear understanding aids greatly in figuring out the reason(s) for the plot sequences that give meaning and validity to the theme(s).

Examine your everyday existence. Relate your present reading to your present reality.

When the characters, actions, or messages in a passage ring familiar, fully grasping them becomes a much easier task! If a passage character is something like your Aunt Sue, that character will be much easier to understand. To a great extent, frequent readers tend to be fluent readers because everything they read is somewhat familiar to them!

Graph your margin memos. Create sequential summaries of the significant sections.

Writing margin memos that connect to each other makes them read like a paraphrased version of the passage. It also fosters clear points of connection between and among the people, actions, & circumstances in a passage. Know why each paragraph was included.

Associate the author, audience, and arena. Know who's speaking to whom, where, & why?

In complicated passages, the twists and turns in plot can become a source of confusion. Understanding the author's purpose becomes a more simplistic chore when the author / audience relationship remains clear, and the choice of settings is seen as a contributing factor in the way the plot unfolds. Remember, all themes are supported by and through character actions, situations, and settings!

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