

# AGADIR FRENCH HIGH SCHOOL

## Reading Strategies

### 1st Reading : Previewing

- Understand the **overall meaning**
- Pay attention to the **lay-out**, visual elements (typeface, size, pictures) as they emphasize important words and concepts
- Focus on the **kind of document** (dialogue, letter, newspaper article, excerpt from a novel, story, description, essay, biography, dialogue, poem...)
  - ✓ Title, (headline, subheadings...)
  - ✓ Introduction
  - ✓ Origin (British, American...),
  - ✓ Date of publication (≠ date of the story)
  - ✓ Name of the author (≠ narrator)
- Read also the **questions** of the exercises and the essay as it will help you get the sense of the key elements.
- Think of what you already know about this subject.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading : Skimming

- Keep the questions of the exercises in mind and check out :
  - ✓ **Main topic/theme** (main ideas are often found in first or last sentences in a paragraph) ;
  - ✓ **Place and setting** ;
  - ✓ **Time** (dates, clothes, transportation means...);
  - ✓ **Characters** (names and roles : main or secondary : which one is developed) ;
  - ✓ **Circumstances, atmosphere, background.**
- Underline or highlight the information you'll need to answer (use highlighters, coloring pencils...).

### 3rd Reading : Scanning

- **Patterns** : narrative/argumentative text
  - ✓ Narrative technique : 1st or 3rd person narrative, omniscient narrator.
  - ✓ Argumentative technique : narrator/author's opinion, objectivity, intention, positive vs negative words...
  - ✓ Devices : irony, humour, implicit meaning, Tone, level of language
  - ✓ Typical audience and purpose (e.g., to persuade, to explain, to illustrate).
- **Characters** : psychology, attitude, conflicts, relationships (draw a diagram)
- **Actions** : verbs, tenses, link words to understand what is going on and the organization of the text (chronology cause/effect, comparison/contrast, classification, description, definition)
- For any unfamiliar word : use context and clues to infer them.

### Analyzing

- **Divide the text** into small chunks (paragraph/sections) & give a title that summarizes the main idea)
- **Use a concept-map** to understand the sequence of events (situation, complications, climax, resolution) or the connections between ideas and their hierarchy
- **Visualize the text** in your mind (picture the setting, the story's plot, you may sketch them if you have time).
- Find links between what you've read and the **cultural references** you have

### Answering the Questions

- Respect the order of the questions (and write the number of each of them next to your answer)
- Respect the instructions (eg number of words and write it at the end of the question...)
- Look for key words and clues in the question.
- Re-read that part of the text in which the author gives the clues needed to answer.
- If you're asked to quote the text (sentence ≠ phrase ≠ element), just quote the exact passage (ellipsis), use quotation marks & give the line (in/at line...). It should be a quotation that makes sense on its own and with a correct syntax. If it is written « in your own words », don't quote the text.
- Express yourself clearly (proper spelling and grammar)