

# HINTS FOR SUCCESSFUL READING

## Basic Attributes of a Critical Reader:

- Annotates text using a pen, pencil, highlighter, or post it notes.
- Re-reads for a variety of purposes.
- Asks pertinent questions and predicts as s/he reads.
- Identifies evidence that supports assumptions.
- Is able to assess information and disregard that which is irrelevant.
- Is flexible and able to adjust conclusions as new information is presented.
- Suspends judgment until all facts are gathered and considered.
- Listens carefully to others.
- Is able to admit a lack of understanding. Re-reads for understanding.
- Exhibits an inquisitive and analytic attitude toward the text, making observations and drawing conclusions as s/he reads.
- Looks for the author's purpose, the intended audience, the development and support of the main idea, and the structure/coherence of the work.
- Employs a written response in order to sharpen analytic skills, connect ideas, present information in a clear, logical, and concrete format, and clarify thought.
- Recognizes that critical reading and writing are life-long learning skills that are relevant to all content areas.

## Other Suggestions:

- Set aside a designated reading time each day.
- Have parents read the book. Discuss the book with your parents.
- Have "book talks" with friends who are also reading the book.
- Become an active reader by applying **reading strategies**:
  - predict** - figure out what will happen next
  - visualize** characters, events and setting
  - connect** personally with what you are reading
  - question** what happens while you read
  - clarify** - stop occasionally to review what you understand, expect to have your understanding change and develop as you read on
  - evaluate** - form opinions about what you read, both while you are reading and after you have finished/develop your own ideas about characters and events