



# Reading in English

Disciplinary literacy is defined as the confluence of content knowledge, experiences, and skills merged with the ability to read, write, listen, speak, think critically and perform in a way that is meaningful within the context of a given field.

English teachers are responsible for a curriculum that involves reading literature and, increasingly, informational text across multiple genres and through different lenses (e.g. cultural, historical, feminist). Reading novels, poetry and short stories requires a mindset very different from that of readers of other disciplines – one that can recognise word play, hold on to multiple storylines, detect nuances in dialogue, and recognise how figurative language can expand meaning, for instance. Critical analysis of essays, articles, speeches and other nonfiction texts require a different set of skills.



## Fiction:

- Poetry
- Short stories
- Novels
- Novellas
- Graphic novels
- Plays

## Non-Fiction:

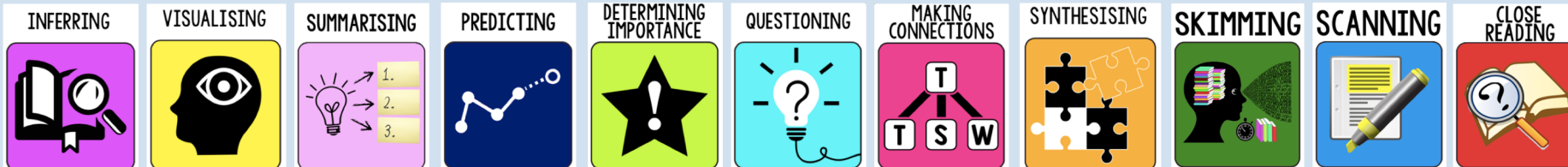
- Biographies
- Speeches
- Letters
- Journals
- Articles
- Diaries
- Information texts
- Advertisements
- Reviews
- Essays
- Blogs

## DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

- Texts from genres such as novels, poetry, plays, and dramas
- Contextual factors are key (who, what, where, and when), along with considering the author's purpose/perspective
- Figurative language (e.g., metaphor, irony) and other abstractions used by authors
- In analysis of texts, use of specialised terms such as "denouement"

## DEMANDS AND STRATEGIES

- Look for ways that characters, setting and conflicts may influence the meaning of the text
- Manage ambiguity and make inferences
- Reconstruct story elements when presented nonlinearly
- Understand the use and effect of figurative language
- Find underlying messages that evolve as a theme
- Pay attention to new vocabulary or how words are used in unusual ways
- Engage in a mental dialogue with the author
- Use text structure as a tool for comprehension
- Read nonfiction critically, looking for bias or fallacies in reasoning
- Recognise devices authors use to enhance their writing
- Read sceptically, discerning unreliable narrators or characters



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