

READ BOOKS
LIKE AN
AUTHOR



VIBHAV

Read Books
Like An
AUTHOR

a nonfiction

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Introduction: Why Read Like an Author?



ONCE UPON A TIME, in a land of endless books, there lived a reader named CURIOUS. She loved to read and explore new worlds, meet new characters, and experience new adventures. However, she always felt like something was missing from her reading experience. One day, she met an old author named WISE, who shared with her the secret of "Reading like an Author".

Wise explained to Curious that reading like an author means to not just passively consume the words on the page, but to actively engage with the text and look for deeper meaning. He compared it to reading a map instead of just following the path. With a map, one can understand the terrain, the landmarks, and the route taken by the traveller. Similarly, reading like an author allows one to understand the choices made by the writer, the themes, and the subtext.

Curious was fascinated by this new way of reading and decided to try it out. She picked up her favourite book and started to analyze it as Wise had instructed her. As she read, she noticed things she had never seen before. She saw the symbolism in the descriptions, the hidden motives of the characters, and the themes woven throughout the story. She felt like she was discovering a whole new world within the pages of the book.

From that day on, Curious read like an author in all her adventures. She became more perceptive, more analytical, and more appreciative of the books she read. She also discovered that the more she read like an author, the better she became at writing her own stories.

Take away: - *Reading like an author is a powerful tool that opens up new possibilities in the reading experience. It allows one to go beyond the surface level and understand the depth and complexity of a story. Just like a map, it gives a greater understanding of the journey*

Why Read Like an Author?

As readers, we often find ourselves lost in the pages of a captivating story, swept away by the emotions, experiences, and adventures of the characters we encounter. But have you ever

wondered what sets apart a truly great book from one that simply passes the time? The answer lies in the way the author crafts the story, the themes they explore, and the symbols they use to convey their message. By learning to read like an author, you can gain a deeper understanding of the books you love and develop a greater appreciation for the art of storytelling.

In this book, we will embark on a journey to unlock the secrets of reading like an author. From analyzing character development to decoding symbols and recognizing literary devices, you will learn the skills and techniques necessary to deepen your understanding of any book you read. You'll discover the elements that make a story truly great and how to reflect on what you've read in meaningful ways. So, whether you're a seasoned reader or just starting out, join us on this exciting journey and take your love of books to the next level.

The world of books is a magical one, and when you read like an author, you can turn that magic into a real-life superpower.

You see, most people struggle with reading. They find it boring, time-consuming, and a complete waste of their precious time. But what they don't realize is that reading is a skill that can be developed, and when you do, it can change your life for the better.

The average reader faces many challenges, like not being able to understand what they're reading, getting easily distracted, or not being able to retain what they've learned. But, when you read like an author, you can overcome these problems with ease.

For starters, you'll learn to pay attention to the details. Instead of just skimming through the pages, you'll start to notice the small things that make a big difference in a story. You'll start to understand the nuances and subtleties of language, and see how authors use words to paint pictures in your mind.

And if you're one of those people who get easily distracted while reading, you'll find that when you read like an author, your focus will become razor-sharp. You'll be so engaged in the story that you won't even notice the world around you.

But the real magic happens when you start to retain what you've learned. When you read like an author, your mind will naturally store the information in a way that makes it easy for you to recall later on. Whether you're reading for pleasure or for work, you'll be amazed at how much you'll remember.

Now, I know what you're thinking. "But I'm not a bookworm, I don't like reading!" Well, I've got good news for you. You don't have to be an avid reader to read like an author. All you need is a willingness to learn, and a little bit of creativity.

Here's an example. Let's say you're reading a mystery novel, and you're not sure who the culprit is. Instead of just reading the words on the page, try to imagine yourself as the detective. Ask questions, make observations, and use your imagination to solve the case.

Or, let's say you're reading a historical fiction novel, and you're not sure what the setting looks like. Try to imagine yourself as a time traveller, visiting the world of the story. What do you see, hear, and smell? The more you use your imagination, the more you'll enjoy the experience of reading.

And if you're one of those non-readers who think that books are just a waste of time, I challenge you to give it a try. Read like an author, and you'll be amazed at how much you'll learn, grow, and enjoy the experience.

Take away: - *Reading like an author is a life-changing experience. It's a way to turn a simple act of reading into a magical journey. It's a way to unlock your imagination, expand your knowledge, and develop new skills. And, best of all, it's a way to have fun while doing it! So, go ahead, give it a try, and see for yourself why reading like an author is the way to go.*

1. Art of Close Reading



"THE ART OF CLOSE READING" - sounds fancy, doesn't it?

It's like a detective work where you are trying to uncover the secrets hidden within a piece of writing. You need your magnifying glass and start examining each word, each phrase, and each sentence like a sleuth on a mission.

Here's how to do it:

STEP 1: READ THE TEXT WITH A RELAXED MIND.

"Take it easy, relax and let the words do the talking".

STEP 2: ANALYZE THE WORDS AND PHRASES

"Words are like puzzle pieces, put them together and you'll see the picture."

STEP 3: ASK QUESTIONS

"Questions lead to answers, answers lead to understanding. It's a never-ending cycle of awesomeness."

STEP 4: IDENTIFY LITERARY DEVICES

"Ah, the literary devices, they add flavour to the text, just like spices add flavour to food."

STEP 5: INTERPRET THE TEXT

"Interpretation is like a magic show, the more you dig, the more you'll find."

STEP 6: DRAW CONCLUSIONS

"Conclusion, the moment of truth, the cherry on top of a well-made sundae."

Go, grab your magnifying glass, put on your detective hat, and get ready to uncover the secrets hidden within the text. Happy reading!

FORMING THE WORLD INSIDE YOUR HEAD AS YOU READ THE WORDS THAT DESCRIBES THEM

When you close read, you're basically constructing a world within your mind. It's like building a castle with your imagination as the bricks and the text as the blueprint.

Picture this: you're reading a book and suddenly, the words on the page come alive, the characters start moving, and you're right there in the thick of the action. You can hear the rustling of leaves, feel the wind on your face, and smell the salt in the air. It's like watching a movie in your head, but you're the director, the producer, and the audience all in one.

It's like being transported to a different place and time, and you get to experience it all first-hand. The Art of Close Reading allows you to bring the text to life and form a world that is unique to you. And the best part? You don't even have to leave your couch.

Go, grab a good book, sit back, and let your imagination do the rest.

PROBLEMS THAT ARISE WHILE CLOSE READING

Close reading is a literary detective's best weapon when trying to unlock the secrets hidden within a piece of writing. Just like a skilled sleuth armed with a magnifying glass, we embark on a thrilling mission to decode the author's intentions, delve into the depths of each word, phrase, and sentence, and reveal the underlying meaning and significance. However, this exciting journey is not without its challenges and obstacles, which will be explored in this chapter.

1. CLUES CONCEALED WITHIN WORDS

The detective's magnifying glass zooms in on individual words, which hold a treasure trove of meanings. But words can be Shapeshifters, cunningly disguising their true intentions. Multiple interpretations can emerge from a single word, leaving us puzzled. A word might have evolved over time, carrying different connotations and nuances that the modern reader may miss. Thus, we must be vigilant not to overlook these subtleties.

Consider Shakespeare's works, where archaic words require extra scrutiny. "Wherefore" is not just a question of location but "why." "Marry" isn't about marriage but an exclamation of surprise. Our detective minds must stay sharp to uncover these hidden layers.

2. DECODING ELUSIVE PHRASES

As we move beyond individual words, we encounter intricate phrases that can befuddle even the most astute detective. Figurative language, such as metaphors and similes, adds complexity to the investigation. A metaphorical phrase might seem simple, but its deeper implications can escape casual observation.

For example, "He's drowning in a sea of sadness" paints a vivid image, but what does it signify? The detective must swim deeper into the context, understanding the emotional state and exploring why the sea is a fitting analogy.

3. NAVIGATING THROUGH DECEPTIVE SENTENCES

Sentences are the building blocks of writing, and they demand careful analysis. A skilled detective knows to dissect sentences, unravelling their syntax and structure to grasp the intended message.

Long, convoluted sentences may obscure their true meaning, hiding vital clues within subordinate clauses. In contrast, short sentences can carry immense power, indicating a shift in tone or urgency. Decoding the author's use of punctuation marks, such as dashes, semicolons, and ellipses, becomes essential to deciphering their intent.

4. THE WEB OF CONTEXT: A COMPLEX NETWORK

Just like a detective can't rely solely on individual pieces of evidence, close readers must examine the broader context surrounding a text. Historical, cultural, and social contexts provide essential background information that informs the author's work.

However, navigating this web of context is like untangling a complex knot. The detective must avoid anachronistic judgments and embrace empathy to understand perspectives from different times and cultures.

5. RED HERRINGS: MISLEADING INTERPRETATIONS

In detective work, red herrings mislead investigators away from the truth. Close reading is no different; we encounter passages that seem to hint at one interpretation but lead us astray.

Authors may deliberately employ ambiguity to challenge readers and provoke critical thinking. Distinguishing between deliberate ambiguity and unintentional confusion requires the keen eye of a detective.

6. LOST IN TRANSLATION

Translating literary works from one language to another is akin to traversing a labyrinth. The detective's magnifying glass may crack as language nuances and cultural references get lost in the process. What seems like a vital clue in the original text may become distorted or vanish entirely.

Translators must strike a delicate balance between fidelity to the source and making the work accessible in the target language. Readers engaging with translations must be aware of this challenge and approach the text with caution.

7. UNTOLD STORIES: ABSENCES AND GAPS

Detectives often search for missing puzzle pieces to complete the picture. Similarly, close readers confront gaps and absences in a text, which can be as revealing as the words on the page.

Unspoken emotions, omitted details, or unresolved plotlines invite speculation. As detectives, we must develop a discerning eye for what remains unsaid, allowing our imaginations to fill in the gaps.

8. PERSONAL BIASES AND INTERPRETATIONS

Just like detectives must guard against personal biases, close readers must be aware of their preconceived notions and judgments. Our backgrounds, experiences, and beliefs colour our interpretations, potentially skewing the true meaning of the text.

To overcome this challenge, we must embrace open-mindedness and engage in critical self-reflection. By acknowledging our biases, we can strive for a more objective and nuanced understanding of the work.

Take away: - The Ever-Evolving Detective

In the enthralling world of close reading, we continually morph into ever-evolving detectives. Armed with our magnifying glasses, we venture forth to uncover the hidden secrets within a piece of writing. We navigate through the labyrinth of words, phrases, and sentences, discerning meaning amidst ambiguity, red herrings, and cultural barriers.

Though the challenges may be formidable, the rewards of close reading are immeasurable. Each investigation brings us closer to the essence of the text, enriching our literary understanding and shaping us into astute interpreters of the written word. So, fellow detectives, let us embark on this exhilarating journey of close reading, for there is always another mystery awaiting our scrutiny.

2. Understanding Character Development



Character development is like planting a seed and watching it grow into a beautiful flower. At first, you only know a little about the character, just like a tiny seed. But as you read on, you start to see their personality bloom and their motivations become clearer.

Just like a plant needs sunlight, water, and care to grow, a character needs their experiences, relationships, and actions to develop. And just like a flower, a character can have different layers and sides to them, each unique and adding to the beauty of the whole.

Understanding character development allows you to see the intricate details that make a character that they are, and it's what brings them to life on the page. It's like looking at a painting, seeing each stroke of the brush, and appreciating the artist's vision.

So, sit back and go through these steps:-

STEP 1:- OBSERVE THE CHARACTER'S ACTIONS

"Pay attention to what the character does, just like you pay attention to your grandma's cooking. You don't want to miss a thing!"

STEP 2:- ANALYZE THEIR MOTIVATIONS

"Why do they do what they do? Is it for the greater good or just for the good of their own belly?"

STEP 3:- EXAMINE THEIR RELATIONSHIPS

"Who do they surround themselves with? Are they like your best friend who always has your back or your crazy uncle who shows up uninvited?"

STEP 4:- LOOK AT THEIR PAST EXPERIENCES

"Where have they been? What have they done? Just like you have childhood memories, the character has a history too."

STEP 5:- PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

"Just like piecing together a puzzle, you have to put all the pieces together to see the big picture."

And voila! You now have a deeper understanding of the character, and can appreciate them for who they are.

A classic example of character development in literature is the character of Jay Gatsby in F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby."

GATSBY starts off as a mysterious figure to the narrator, Nick Carraway, and the reader, with rumours and legends circulating about his past. As the novel progresses, Nick gets to know Gatsby and we see Gatsby's motivations, desires, and vulnerabilities, leading to a deeper understanding of his character.

At the beginning of the novel, Gatsby is depicted as a wealthy man who throws extravagant parties, but as the story progresses, we learn that he is searching for his lost love, Daisy Buchanan, and that all of his wealth and opulence is a facade to win her back. This revelation adds depth to Gatsby's character and helps the reader understand why he does what he does.

Additionally, Gatsby's tragic end serves to highlight the consequences of his actions and further emphasizes the flaws in his character. Through character development, Fitzgerald transforms Gatsby from a mysterious and enigmatic figure to a fully-realized human being with hopes, fears, and a tragic back-story.

Take away:-

- *Character development can help us to understand ourselves and others better. By seeing how characters change and grow, we can learn more about the human condition.*
- *Character development can help us to appreciate the art of storytelling. When a character is well-developed, it can make the story more immersive and enjoyable.*
- *Character development can be a powerful tool for social commentary. By creating characters that represent different social groups or ideas, authors can explore complex issues in a way that is both entertaining and thought-provoking.*