

Active Reading Notes – VACS

Each time you read a selection, whether it be a short story, a poem, a chapter from a novel, or a scene from a play, you will need to take active reading notes as you read. You will divide a page in your composition notebook into four squares (see example below) and fill in information that fits each of the four categories: **Vocabulary**, **Ask and Answer Questions**, **Connect to the text**, and **Summarize** the text. In the example below, some suggestions/ideas to get started in each category are provided.

<p>Vocabulary Create a list of words that are new to you, words that have been used in new and/or unexpected ways, and words that are important to the text you are reading.</p>	<p>Ask and Answer Questions Develop your own question(s) or prompt(s) that you find helpful when thinking about how or what you read. Ask questions of the text, yourself, and the author.</p> <p>As I read, I keep wanting to ask... because... I still don't understand... What caused... What do they mean by... Why does the character/author... Why doesn't the character/author... I wonder why...</p>
<p>Connect to the text Make connections to yourself, other texts, and the world.</p> <p>I can relate to this because... This reminds me of... This is similar to... This is important because...</p>	<p>Summarize Decide what matters most and write about it.</p> <p>Three important points/ideas are... These are important because... At this point the article/story is about... A good word to describe (e.g., this story's tone) is...because... The most interesting event/idea in this book is... The main character wants/is... The main conflict/idea in this book is...</p>

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