# Raise Your Reading Game

## Steps for getting the most out of fiction

### Get An Overview

When you first pick up a book, quickly read the front and back covers, the inside covers or book jacket, the title page, the copyright page, and the table of contents, and quickly leaf through the book itself.

### Take A Closer Look

Now that you have a general feel for the book, go deeper into the book's language and meaning by reading the introduction and epilogue (if any), and the first and last paragraphs of each chapter. Scan through the pages to pick out recurring words, names, and other cues as well.

### Take Notes

As you read, reinforce your learning and understanding by taking notes in a form that's comfortable for you. This can include highlighting, underlining, and writing marginal notes (if the book belongs to you), or keeping a notebook with brief, chapter-by-chapter observations. Do this for important characters, plot developments, pieces of dialogue, or sections that just stand out or seem interesting.

### Reflect And Review

Once you're done with the book, take some time to think about what you've just read. Think about the action of the book—the overall arc of the plot—and the characters, including their personalities, actions, and how they interacted with each other. Then, dig a little deeper, pondering the book's meaning.

### Summarize

Once you've read the book and really thought about it, the final step, especially if you're reading for a test or essay, is to create your own written summary of the book. Using your notes, while the book is still fresh in your mind, write down a one- to three-page summary of the story. Include main characters, the setting, the story's main conflict, the main events, and the conclusion. Doing this final step will help deepen your recall and understanding.
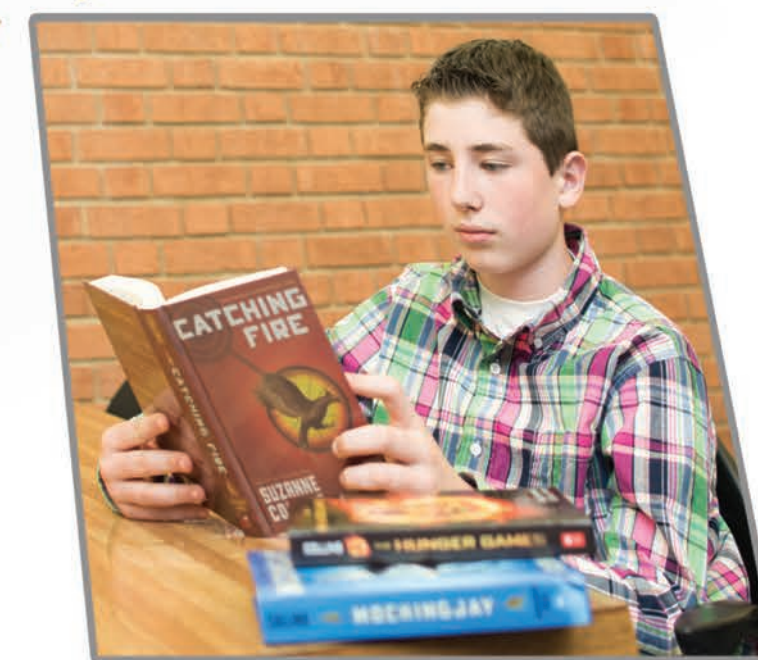
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