

How the Strategy Works?

The three-step strategy is designed to help students divide a reading test into smaller parts, so they are more focused and can target their energy.

Step 1 Scan the Questions:

Before reading the text, have your students look over the questions to target key words and topics to focus on while reading. As they read the questions they also need to put them into two categories. Category one is questions that pertain to the whole text; put a star next to these. For example: main idea, summary, inferring, etc. These are questions students need to answer first, while the whole story is still fresh in their mind. The second category is questions that focus on only part of the text, underline the part. They will require the student to go back into that specific part of the text to find the answer. For example “according to paragraph 2” or when a question refers to a specific part of the text, “while they were in the movie she....”

Step 2:

While reading the text there are three things good readers focus on. They...

Target the Text: Read the text paying close attention to keywords found in the questions.

Analyze: While reading, decide if the text is fiction or non-fiction so you can read with a purpose. Fiction: focus on setting, character, problem and solution. Non-fiction: focus on the 5w's: who, what, when, where, and why.?

Actively Read: Stop to take notes and summarize what is happening in each part or paragraph. If you cannot remember what it is mostly, about go back and reread.

Step 3 Respond to the questions:

The final step is to respond to the questions. Students should begin by answering the “whole questions.” Since they just read the passage, the whole text is freshest in their mind. As a result, they will be able to apply this knowledge when answering the questions. After answering all the “whole questions” students should answer the “part questions.” For these, students need to go back into the text to find the specific part the question is asking about. This text evidence will then support their answer. The reason we divide the questions (part and whole) is that if you go back and reread part of the text on a “part question” you are focused in on those details, which can affect how you think about the passage as a whole. For example, a main idea question requires you to address all parts of the text. If you are focused on details of the story it may affect your answer choice.

STAAR Test Taking Strategy:

1 Scan the Questions

★ Whole

Part

2 Target Text:

Fiction

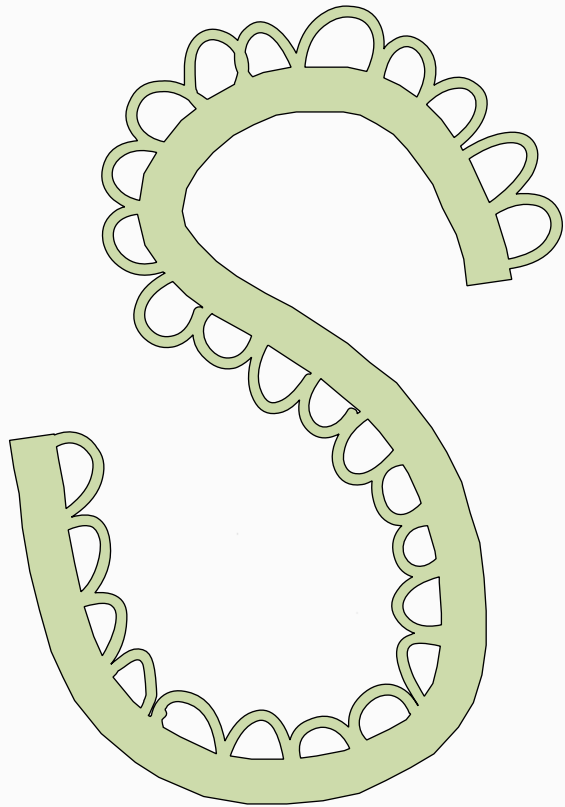
Setting	Character
Problem	Solution

Non-Fiction

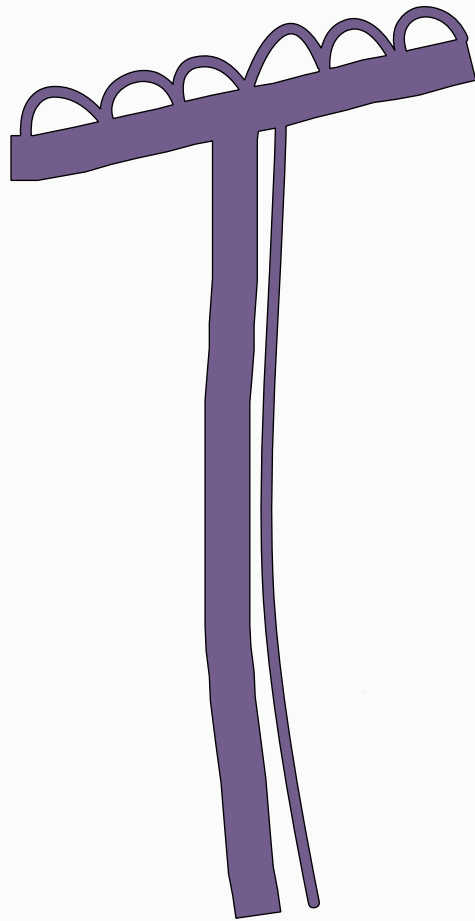
5W's
Who? What?
When? Where?
Why?

3 Respond to Questions

Find and prove your answer!

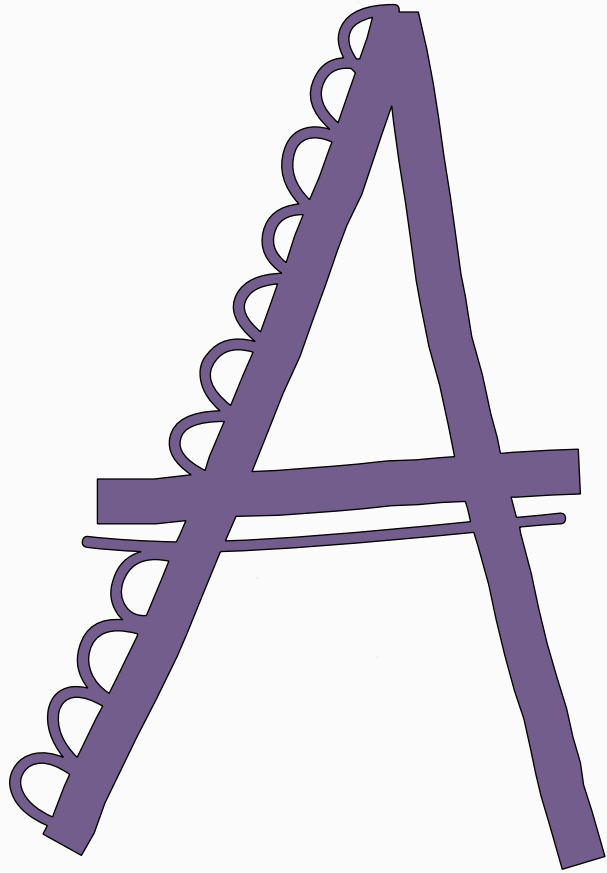


Step 1
Scan the
Questions:
Is the question
WHOLE or PART?

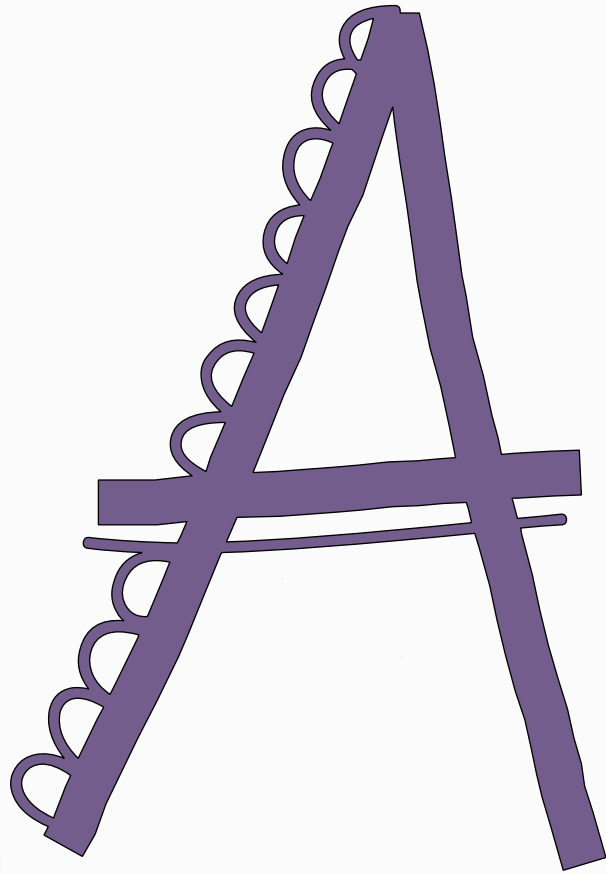


Step 2
Target
Text:

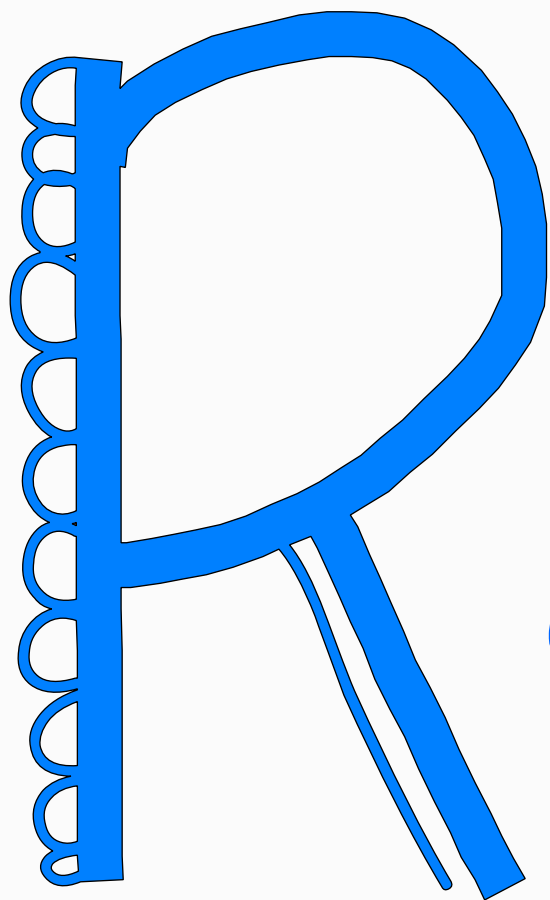
Read ALL the
text carefully.



Analyze:
Is the text
Fiction or
Non-Fiction?



Actively
Read:
Take notes and
Summarize.



R

Step 3

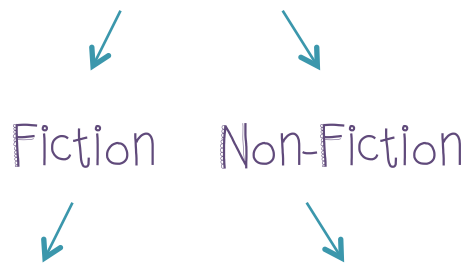
Respond to
Questions:
Go back and find
the answers.

STAAR Test Taking Strategy:

1 Scan the Questions



2 Target Text:



Setting	Characters
Problem	Solution

5W's
Who? What?
When? Where?
Why?

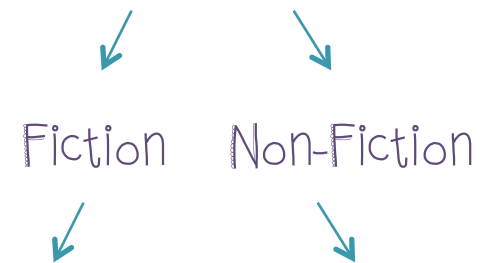
3 Respond to Questions
Find and prove your answer!

STAAR Test Taking Strategy:

1 Scan the Questions



2 Target Text:



Setting	Characters
Problem	Solution

5W's
Who? What?
When? Where?
Why?

3 Respond to Questions
Find and prove your answer!