

# Strategies for Active Reading

## I

Reading is fun. When you read you can learn new things. You can read about people or places. You can read a silly story. Or you can read a passage about someone special.

When you read it is important to think about what you read.

When you think about what you read, you are an active reader.

There are many strategies or skills that will help you to become an active reader.

These strategies will also help you to become a better reader.

We have thought up a way to help you remember the skills that will help you become a better reader.

The first letter of each skill makes up the word SALSA™.

Have you ever heard this word before?

Perhaps you have eaten salsa with chips.

This SALSA™ is different. It stands for these skills:

- S**kim For Clues
- A**sk Questions
- L**ook for Important Information
- S**olve Problems and Figure Out Answers
- A**ssemble What You Know



1

# Skim for Clues

1.E.2.b

Before you start to read a passage, **skim** the passage for clues. When you skim a passage, you look through what you are going to read. You do not read the whole passage. But you look for clues or hints about the passage.

A title is one thing that gives you a clue. It helps you figure out what a passage is about or what will happen in it.

## Examples

1 Look at the passage title below. What do you think the story will be about?

### I Love Bananas

#### Betty's Answer

I think the story will be about someone who loves bananas.

D  
I  
S  
C  
U  
S  
S

This is a very good answer. The title gives you this information. It says that the speaker loves bananas. This is what the story will be about.

A picture is a clue too. It can tell you something about a passage.

2 Suppose a story had this picture. Based on this picture, what will probably happen in the story?

- (A) Someone will run a race
- (B) Someone will be sick
- (C) Someone will go swimming
- (D) Someone will play baseball



D  
I  
S  
C  
U  
S  
S

(A) The picture shows a child playing with a bat, not running. This cannot be the correct answer.

(B) This picture does not show anyone who is sick. This is not the right answer.

(C) There is not anyone swimming in this picture. So this probably will not happen in the story.

(D) This picture would go with a story about someone playing baseball. This is the correct answer.

**Skim** Use the clues in the title or the picture to help you figure out what a passage will be about.

**Practice It** -----

**3** Look at the title of this story.

**My Two Kittens**

Explain what you think this story will be about. Use words from the title of the story to support your explanation. Write your answer on the lines below.

---

---

---

**4** Here is a picture that goes with the story "My Two Kittens."



What will probably happen in the story?

- (A) The kittens will sleep on a chair.
- (B) The kittens will chase a butterfly.
- (C) The kittens will drink milk.
- (D) The kittens will scratch furniture.



*Hint*—Pick the answer that tells about the picture.