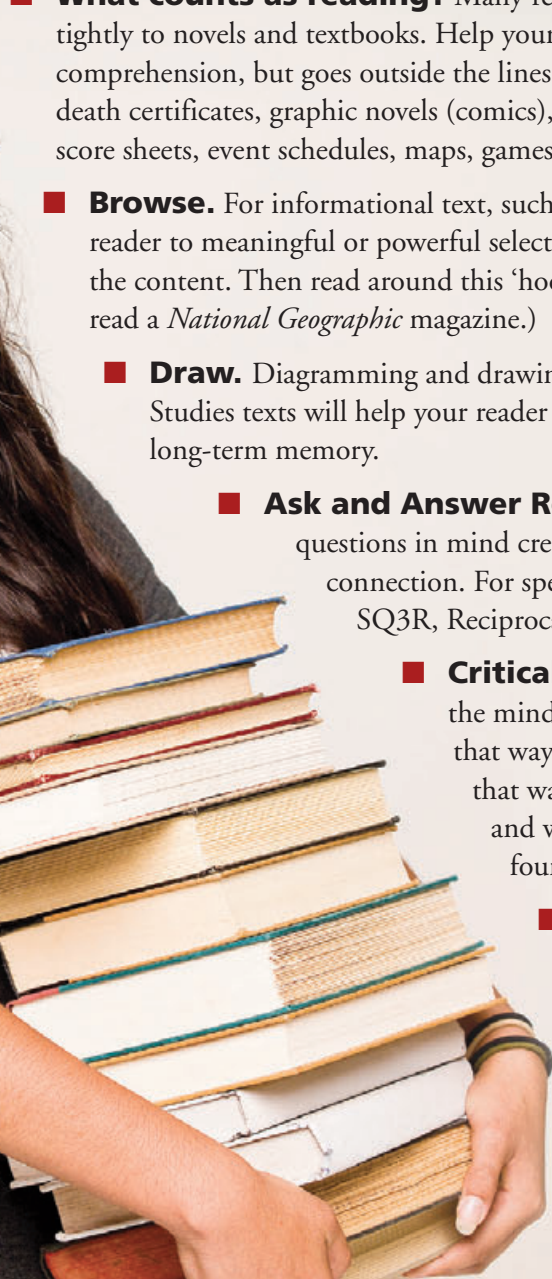


Learn from the mistakes of others.  
You can't live long enough to  
make them all yourself.  
JAN VOSEIPKA

## Tips for Parents of High School and Middle School Readers

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- **What counts as reading?** Many readers' definitions of reading are bound too tightly to novels and textbooks. Help your reader value authentic text that requires comprehension, but goes outside the lines drawn at school. Menus, song lyrics, birth and death certificates, graphic novels (comics), recipes, product manuals, brochures, sports score sheets, event schedules, maps, games, etc.
  - **Browse.** For informational text, such as articles or textbooks chapters, guide your reader to meaningful or powerful selections. Find what will get your reader hooked on the content. Then read around this 'hook' to gain more context. (Think about how you read a *National Geographic* magazine.)
  - **Draw.** Diagramming and drawing content learned in Sciences and Social Studies texts will help your reader synthesize and organize information for long-term memory.
  - **Ask and Answer Real Questions.** Readers who read with questions in mind create an 'opening' in the mind waiting for a connection. For specific question routines, do an Internet search on SQ3R, Reciprocal Questioning, and QAR.
  - **Critical Thinking.** The facts find a 'place to live' in the mind when we question them. Who cares? Why is it that way? How does it work? Why did the authors say it that way? What do they assume I believe? Who benefits and who is excluded? One set of guidelines can be found at [criticalthinking.net](http://criticalthinking.net) (see address below\*).
  - **Technology.** Learn what your reader is doing with the phone and Facebook. Stanford researcher Andrea Lundsford finds technology at the heart of an unprecedented surge in writing. She sees adolescents turning out high-volume writing for real audiences (aspects of writing difficult to achieve until now). Never mind if the topics seem juvenile, valid concepts are involved! See the Stanford University website (address below\*\*).

\*<http://www.criticalthinking.net/SSConcCTApr3.html>

\*\*<http://ssw.stanford.edu/presentations/performances.php>