



Getting Ready for the OSSLT

Reading Narrative Texts: Some helpful tips

A *narrative* is a text form that is written to entertain, provide insights, or communicate a writer's ideas and perspectives. It may be either fiction or non-fiction and use language in particular ways to communicate something significant.

A narrative text can be one of the following:

- *Real-life Narrative*: presents an account of a significant time in an individual's life
- *Dialogue*: presents a conversation between two or more people.

Tips for reading narrative texts:

- Read the questions first. This will help to predict what the narrative text is about.
- Skim the selection, looking at text, titles, and pictures; then, read it closely.
- Underline or highlight important information and ideas while reading.
- While reading, ask questions about the text.
- Try to visualize or "see" what's happening while reading.
- If reading an unfamiliar word, look for a root word inside the larger word.
- If the word is still unclear, read to the end of the sentence and look for clues to its meaning. Try reading the sentences before and after the sentence to help find the meaning of the text.
- If a long sentence seems confusing, reread it and try putting it into other words.
- If having trouble understanding an idea, stop and re-read until the meaning becomes clear.
- When reading a real-life narrative, try to understand how the individual's life has changed over time. Take note of important influences in the individual's life.
- When reading a dialogue, try to identify each character's role, actions, and character traits through what he/she says.