

CS Lewis: That Hideous Strength

Analytical Reading Worksheet (part 1-2a)

First Stage of Analytical Reading: Rules for Finding What a Book is About

Expository Literature		Imaginative Literature	
What is the book about as a whole?	Rule 1: Classify the book according to the kind and subject matter	Classify the work of imaginative literature according to its kind (Lyric, Novels, Plays)	What is the book about as a whole? Answered when: you can describe the unity of the plot of a story/play/poem (the action or movement).
	Rule 2: State what the whole book is about with the utmost brevity	Grasp the unity of the whole work – and be able to express that unity in a sentence or two.	
	Rule 3: Enumerate its major parts in their order and relation, and outline these parts as you have outlined the whole	Discover how that whole is constructed out of all its parts; the parts of fiction are the various steps that the author takes to develop his plot – the details of characterization and incident.	
	Rule 4: Define the problem or problems the author has tried to solve	For fiction, the unity is connected w the problem the author faced, if the unity of a story is always in its plot; you have not grasped the whole story until you can summarize its plot in a brief narration.	

Part 1: What is the book about as a whole?

In our course, you will not have the leisure to read the book through once as part of your inspectional reading (see side bar) prior to your in-depth reading. That being said, see what you can get out of the items listed below – ignore (or delete) those that don't apply.

- Title – Take a moment to read it aloud. What does it tell you to expect?
- Contents – How has the author structured their work? How does it flow? What are the pivotal chapters?
- Index – What terms are most frequently referenced? Do any surprise you?
- Publisher's blurb – What does the publisher think is important? How have they synthesized the work?
- Author's preface – What does the author want you to take away? How do they want you to read?
- Read titles, sub-titles, figures and tables;
- Read a paragraph or two, sometimes several pages – Never more;
- Skim pivotal chapters in full – Especially opening and summary statements);
- Read the last two or three pages in the main part of the book.

Inspectional reading

- Getting the most from a book in a given time
- Inspect everybook before reading it
- It primes you with an overall framework
- It tells you whether and how to read it

Part 1

- Systematic skimming**
- Study
- Title
- Contents
- Index
- Publisher's blurb
- Author's preface
- Turn pages
- Read titles, sub-titles, figures and tables
- Read a paragraph or two, sometimes several pages
- Skim pivotal chapters in full
- especially opening and summary statements
- Read the last two or three pages in the main part of the book
- Classify the book
- Non-fiction, narrative non-fiction, fiction?
- Prose, verse, theater, other or a mix?
- History, science or philosophy?
- Theoretical or practical?
- Write a short synthesis of its contents
- one to three sentences
- Bullet the high-level structure
- Decide whether to read the book or not

Part 2

- Superficial reading**
- What does it say (Big picture)
- Read the whole book, all the way through without stopping

Reading the Omni Essay and completing the above steps of Inspectional Reading and Part 1 of Analytical reading will help you get a quick feel for the book and enable you to answer (at least in part) the next four questions. Depending on how much skimming you had time to do, you might not get far on numbers 3 and 4 below – don't fret! Leave it blank since you will get there in the analytical portion of this worksheet!

1. **Classify the book ~** Classify the work of imaginative literature according to its kind (Lyric, Novels, Plays)
2. **Synthesize it briefly ~** Grasp the unity of the whole work – and be able to express that unity in a sentence or two. (1-3 sentences)
3. **Identify, organize, & outline the parts ~** Discover how that whole is constructed out of all its parts; the parts of fiction are the various steps that the author takes to develop his plot – the details of characterization and incident.
4. **Summarize the plot ~** For fiction, the unity is connected w the problem the author faced, tf the unity of a story is always in its plot; you have not grasped the whole story until you can summarize its plot in a brief narration.

Second Stage of Analytical Reading: Rules for Interpreting a Books Contents

Expository Literature		Imaginative Literature	What is being said in detail, and how? Answered when: you are able to discern the role the various characters play, and recount, in your own words, the key incidents and events in which they are involved.	AR WS 2a AR Worksheet 2b
Rule 5: Come to terms with the author by interpreting his key words		You must become acquainted with... the details of the incident and characterization		
Rule 6: Grasp the author's leading propositions by dealing with his most important sentences		You must become acquainted with... the author's imaginary world such that you are at home in it! Find the connections in his world so that you can imagine it!		
Rule 7: Know the author's arguments, by finding them in, or constructing them out of, sequences of sentences.		You must become acquainted with... the characters		
		These 3 steps are ways to "become progressively more aware of the artistic achievement of an imaginative writer...that should enable you to enrich your pleasure by knowing intimately the sources of your delight. <i>You will not only know what you like by also why you like it.</i> " P212		
Rule 8: Determine which of his problems the author has solved, and which he has not; and of the latter, decide which the author knew he had failed to solve.		We don't deal with problems in imaginative literature – hooray!		

Part 2: "What is being said in detail, and how?"

The next 3 steps in analytical reading for Imaginative literature will be able to discern the role the various characters play, and recount, in your own words, the key incidents and events in which they are involved. By the end of this you want to "become progressively more aware of the artistic achievement of an imaginative writer...that should enable you to enrich your pleasure by knowing intimately the sources of your delight. *You will not only know what you like by also why you like it.*"

5. Spot all the **keywords** and understand what the author means by them

First, make a list of, then note what is said about those keywords – they will help you develop themes.

Insert your list of keywords here. This is crucial – you will get out of this what you put into it! Alternatively, use a separate piece of paper. You might note what you learn from that use of the keyword.

Second, use these keywords to develop themes for the book; **determine the main theme or point of the book.**

State your main theme here – or dump it into the chart at the end of this document (well, at the end of “AR Part 2b to the end”)

Outline the book ~ This will help you discover how that whole is constructed out of all its parts; the parts of fiction are the various steps that the author takes to develop his plot – the details of characterization and incident.

Chapter ~ Title or other outline-ish things	Optional: key words, introduction/description of characters or ideas
Ch 1	
Ch 2	
Ch 3	
Ch 4	
Ch 5	
Ch 6	
Ch 7	
Ch 8	
Ch 9	
Ch 10	
Ch 11	
Ch 12	
Ch 13	
Ch 14	
Ch 15	
Ch 16	
Ch 17	