

CS Lewis: Perelandra

Analytical Reading Worksheet (part 2b-end)

Inspectional reading	Analytical reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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 <p>Part 1</p> <p>Systematic skimming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">① Study– Title– Contents– Index– Publisher's blurb– Author's preface <p>② Turn pages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Read titles, sub-titles, figures and tables– Read a paragraph or two, sometimes several pages– Skim pivotal chapters in full<ul style="list-style-type: none">– especially opening and summary statements– Read the last two or three pages in the main part of the book <p>③ Classify the book</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Non-fiction, narrative non-fiction, fiction?– Prose, verse, theater, other or a mix?– History, science or philosophy?– Theoretical or practical? <p>④ Write a short synthesis of its contents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– one to three sentences <p>⑤ Bullet the high-level structure</p> <p>⑥ Decide whether to read the book or not</p> <p>Part 2</p> <p>Superficial reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– What does it say (Big picture) <p>Read the whole book, all the way through without stopping</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thorough and complete reading for understanding <p>Part 1</p> <p>What is the book about as a whole?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">① Classify the book② Synthesize it briefly③ Identify, organize and outline the parts④ Define the problems the author is trying to solve <p>Part 2</p> <p>What is being said in detail and how?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">① Spot all the keywords and understand what the author means by them– Distil the key propositions from the author's most important sentences<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Find or build the author's arguments from sequences of sentences and– Decide which problems the author has, hasn't and knew they couldn't solve. <p>Part 3</p> <p>Is the book true, in whole or in part?</p> <p>– Part A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– General maxims of intellectual etiquette① Understand before you "agree", "disagree" or "abstain",② Be open-minded and collaborative, even when you disagree and③ Be specific in any criticisms you make. <p>– Part B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Make your criticisms specific and detailed④ Uninformed ? The author does not know something important⑤ Misinformed ? The author states something that is incorrect⑥ Illogical ? The author's arguments are inconsistent or don't follow⑦ Incomplete ? One or more important additional conclusions omitted.

6. Distil the key propositions from the author's most important sentences

Find, highlight, and dissect the sentences whose meaning is either not immediately obvious or that are clear declarations of knowledge or opinion. These are the author's propositions, the foundations that support their main arguments. A good way to spot these is to look for high concentrations of the terms that you gathered above.

Once you've found them, puzzle away at these propositions until you can re-state them clearly in your own words. Alternatively, challenge yourself to exemplify the general truth they imply with a specific personal example. Both exercises will challenge you to show true understanding.

Try your hand at this! Look for pages with lots of your keywords – try looking at what you marked in the book and what you entered into your Commonplace Book!

7. Find or build the author's arguments from sequences of sentences

Third, find or piece together the collections of sentences or paragraphs in the book that connect one or more propositions in support of a particular conclusion. These chains of logic are the author's main **arguments**.

To spot them, look for things the author states they must assume, can prove, or need not prove because they are self-evident; look for conclusions where you find reasons (and vice versa).

You might not have anything here – or you might! Feel free to leave it blank ☺ I think this will apply more to other types of books.

8. Decide which **problems** the author has, hasn't, and knew they couldn't solve.

Finally, relate your analysis back to your observations from part I. What problems has the author solved? Which have they missed? Where did they know that they failed?

You can also state what you think the author's goal was (Rule 4 of X-Rayng a book)

Following this rigorous process of deconstruction will put you in an excellent place to tackle... Part 3 😊

Part 3: "Is the book true, in whole or in part?"

Part 4: "But what of it?" ~ Significance/Response

Why does the author think it's important to know these things? Is it important that you know them? If the book has not just informed, but enlightened you, what should follow? Implications, applications, suggestions?

CS Lewis: Perelandra

Book at a Glance

Use what you did above and dump it into this chart. It will be a nice one-page document with your main take-aways from the book.

Main theme or point of the book	"But what of it?" ~ Significance/Response
Key propositions	
Something you think is interesting that you want to remember	