

# Reading Benchmarks

1. **Authors purpose** The author rarely states his purpose for writing. For **informational text** it is to inform, explain, persuade or report findings. For **literary text** it is to entertain, persuade, explore feelings, experiment with language, to invent imaginary words, to think deeply about universal themes: life, death.
2. **Point of view:** Every writer approaches a subject from a personal point of view. ---words used such as clever, bright, perceptive .sharp. If a writers only purpose is to inform he or she will try to be as neutral as possible.
3. **Main Idea and Supporting Details.** The Main Idea is a **general statement** about the topic of the paragraph. Some times it is stated and other times it is implied. If it is implied the supporting details of the paragraph will, when put together produce the main idea by your **analysis or thinking.** The specific details are not general statements. They are facts or opinions stated by the author. It is a good idea to underline details stated by the author. This will make your analysis easier. Authors of magazine articles and essays often
4. **Context Clues :**There are likely to words that you have never seen before when you read. You can guess what the word means by how it is used in a sentence.
5. **Word Structure:** Many times you can break a word down into smaller parts to help you figure out the meaning.
6. **Information from Research:** The challenge is to see how data from other source adds information to the facts or ideas in your reading. graphs—charts—maps—etc.
7. **Drawing Conclusions from Several Sources** is the pulling together of information from different sources and making a conclusion about some subject. This is the whole idea and purpose of research. It requires the thinking capability of the world's most powerful computer—your brain. I might add the ability to take facts and make a good decision will lead to a happy joyous life.
8. **Facts Opinions, and Personal values** **Fact** is some statement about the real world that can be observed by anyone. **Opinion** is when there is no way of deciding with absolute certainty that somebody or something is good or bad. **Values** are a persons deeply held beliefs, wants, likes and dislikes.
9. **Comparison and Contrast** To show how two events, people, or things are alike or different.

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10. **Cause and Effect.** Everything that happens (effect) in life is caused by something else. Example: Cause: A dog passes close to another dog's house. Effect: The second dog barks.
11. **Plot , Character, Tone, and Central Conflict.** Stories have: a **plot**—what it is about---**characters**--- people in the story---- **Tone**---a setting, place for the action---**central conflict**-- the story has a differences of opinions between characters
12. **Methods of Development** Writers use different methods for moving their stories from beginning to end. ---development--