

The SMART 7 Strategy

Before/while reading:

- 1) Read and box in the title and blurb. Trace and number the paragraphs.
 - a. *This is important, because often the blurb contains information that isn't found in the reading.*
- 2) Read the first paragraph. Highlight key words and phrases. Then write a brief summary of what you read next to the paragraph.
 - a. *Students should highlight no more than 3-5 words in a row, no more than 7-10 words/phrases in a paragraph, depending on the length of the paragraph.*
 - b. *Students should be able to hand their highlighted words/phrases to another classmate, and that classmate should be able to get the general sense/important information about the article from the selected words and phrases.*
- 3) Repeat #2 for every paragraph.

For multiple-choice reading comprehension questions:

- 4) Read and highlight key words in each question.
- 5) Read each answer and put X?V beside each choice.
- 6) Prove the answer. Locate the paragraph where the answer is found and write the number next to the question. "Where's the PROOF?!?!?"
 - a. *Especially on MCAS – the answers are almost always specific details found in the reading. If they can locate the answer in the paragraph, they know they have the right answer.*
- 7) Mark your answer on the answer sheet.