

# Read like a... Literary Scholar



Consider what is happening

What is the literal meaning? What has the writer focused our attention on?



Look for layers of meaning

What is being implied? Can you see any deeper ideas being explored? Could what you're reading be a metaphor for something else?



Look for significant vocabulary or phrases.

What are the connotations? What atmosphere is created? What tone is created?



Look for the literary devices the writer has used.

What language devices has the writer used? What structural devices has the writer used? Why? What is the effect?



Make links within the text and with the context

Have you noticed any patterns? Can you link to other texts in this genre? Are there any links to other literary works? Can you link to anything you know about the writer's life or the society at the time?



Look for the big ideas/themes the writer is trying to explore - consider binary oppositions.

Think about profound human ideas - man vs nature, love vs hate, life vs death, good vs evil.

