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## INTRODUCTION

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### **A Note to Teachers and Parents**

We live in a fast-changing world. Information is rapidly fired at us from newspapers, television, and computers. In schools, students are being asked to process more sophisticated and demanding information.

Reading demands are complex at the junior and senior high school levels, particularly in the content areas of science and social studies. Often, students have not been taught how to read this material. They may not know how to take notes or prepare for tests.

Students need specialized instruction in study skills. A unique approach is presented in *Read to Study*. Emphasis is placed on reading comprehension and study skills. This book contains exercises for “hands-on” use with students. The exercises will use six levels of questions, which follow the levels of thinking outlined in Bloom’s Taxonomy (Sylwester, 1971).

Questioning is presented as a two-fold process: knowing how to ask questions, and knowing how to answer questions. Good questioning skills lead to good critical thinking skills. When students can ask questions at a variety of thinking levels, they are able to improve their ability to problem solve.

In this book problem finding activities are followed by problem solving exercises. The exercises which follow focus on reading, note taking, studying, and test taking.

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## CHAPTER ONE

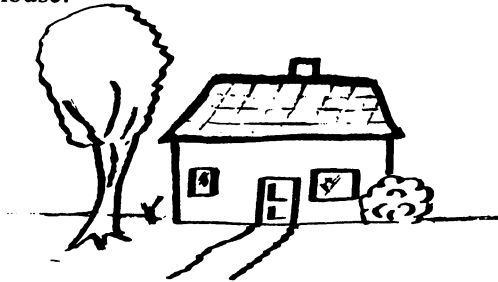
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### IS IT A TURTLE OR A FOX?: Finding the Main Idea

How many times have you found yourself staring at a page of science or social studies with no idea of what the author is trying to tell you? In order to bring the page or chapter into focus, there are reading comprehension techniques that can help you.

Picture building a house. First you have to select a lot on which to build the house. Then you lay the foundation. The framework and outside walls are the next step. Finally, you complete the house by adding the roof.

Let's try to visualize our house:



Reading comprehension is like building the house, where the house represents the author's concept. Here are four steps to help you "FIND" the author's house. As we go through the next four steps with the FIND method, you will see how the author built his house.

1. **Find the topic noun.** Read a paragraph. Underline or write down the topic noun. When you think about it, this is like choosing a lot for your house.
2. **Identify the topic.** Find the topic sentence. Underline it or write it. This could be a phrase or part of the topic sentence. Write it in your own words. You have now laid the foundation of your "house" or idea.
3. **Note important details.** List the major details under the topic. This is like putting up the walls on your house.
4. **Develop these into a statement of the author's main point.** Add up all of the pieces in the first three steps. Put this into a sentence in your own words. This is like putting the roof on your house. Now the house is complete, and now the main idea is complete.

This four part method can be called the FIND method. This method is an excellent way to picture what you are reading about. It is especially helpful when reading social studies or science materials.

Let's practice the four-part FIND method with science material. This reading is about the Milky Way. Read the paragraph below, and follow the four steps. Cover the answers, so that you won't be tempted to look while you think. Compare your answers with those below or a classmate's answers.

**FIGURE 1**  
**LEVELS OF QUESTIONS**

**EVALUATION (Using Criteria to Judge Value)**

Conclude  
Rank  
Appraise  
Judge

**SYNTHESIS (Combining Parts of Knowledge Anew)**

Create  
Organize  
Revise  
Formulate  
Invent

**ANALYSIS (Breaking Knowledge into Parts)**

Calculate  
Compare  
Separate  
Identify  
Test

**APPLICATION (Using Knowledge in New Situations)**

Demonstrate  
Modify  
Solve  
Translate  
Dramatize

**COMPREHENSION (Understanding Knowledge)**

Paraphrase  
Explain  
Summarize  
Estimate  
Defend

**RECOGNITION (Accumulation of Knowledge)**

List  
Tell  
State  
Define  
Describe

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## CHAPTER FIVE

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### YOU ASKED FOR IT!:

### Note Taking

The use of questions before reading helps you focus on the information you read and improves your comprehension. Previewing questions help you to read critically and relate to the subject at hand. By answering the questions that you posed prior to your reading and the questions that may be found in the textbook, you will be able to take excellent notes.

Critical thinking flows from one process to another. It acts like a slow erupting volcano. Figure 2 depicts this process.

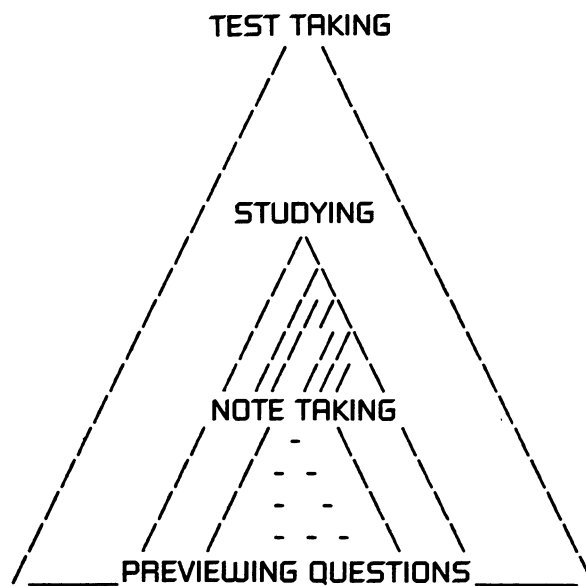


Figure 2  
Study Skills Progression