

# HOW FAST SHOULD YOU READ?

## 'Speed demon' (Skimming)

1000–2000 words per minute

- To locate a specific reference or vocabulary word
- To find the answer to a specific question
- To get a general overview of a chapter, short story or article



## 'Interstate travel' (Rapid reading)

500–1000 words per minute

- To review something you have already read
- To read magazines, comic books or feature articles in newspapers
- To read for pleasure, for example an easy novel



## 'Driving in town' (Moderate reading with bumps as needed)

350–500 words per minute

- Fiction:
- To read fiction that is somewhat difficult
  - To read for characterisation, theme, mood, imagery etc.
- Non-fiction:
- To find the main idea and make generalisations
  - To understand patterns and sequence



## 'Studying the map' (Reading the same material several times)

250–350 words per minute

- Fiction:
- To read complex fiction for characterisation and plot analysis
  - To understand relationships between characters and ideas
- Non-fiction:
- To note details, compare and contrast information, distinguish between fact and opinion



## 'Speed bumps' (Slow reading)

50–250 words per minute

- Fiction:
- To evaluate quality and literary merit
  - To study and master content, including facts and details
  - To learn new vocabulary and literary style

Non-fiction:

- To read technical or scientific material

- Both:
- To solve a complex problem
  - To follow detailed directions
  - Translating from another language

