Middle School Reading Goal Suggestions

All reading goals below are based on the 5 Habits of Great Readers:

1. Great readers always make mind movies or create a picture in their mind.
2. Great readers always identify the big idea and evidence to support it.
3. Great readers always think about the title as they read, and how the events or information in the text connect back to the title.
4. Great readers always notice vocabulary and use the context of the word to figure out its meaning.
5. Great readers always notice an author’s use of interesting language and structures that support the big idea.

Sample Goals

As you read, make a mind movie of what you are reading. Stop after each paragraph and ask yourself:

- What did I just learn?
- Based on what I’ve read so far, what is the author’s message?

When you are reading, if something doesn’t sound right or make sense, ask yourself:

- “Why doesn’t this sound right?” or “What is confusing me?”
- Once you have answered those questions, reread for new understanding.

If you come across an unfamiliar word, ask yourself:

- Are there words or word parts that I know inside the unfamiliar word? Can I use this word or word part to help me understand the unfamiliar word?
- Are there context clues I can use to determine the meaning of this unfamiliar word? Does my proposed meaning make sense given the main idea?

Ensure you are reading fluently by grouping words into phrases and noticing how punctuation affects meaning. As you are reading fluently, ask yourself:

- What did I just learn?
- Based on what I’ve read so far, what is the author’s message?
Read in chunks. After each chunk, ask yourself:

- What did I just learn?
- How does this chunk connect to what I have already read?
- What is the purpose of this chunk?

Pay attention to what characters think, say, and do. Then ask yourself:

- What can I infer about this character based on his/her thoughts, feelings, or actions?
- What evidence do I have to support my inference?

Continually come back to the title as you are reading a text.

- Before you start reading, ask yourself: Based on the title, what do I think this text will be about?
- As you are reading, ask yourself: How does what I’ve read connect to the title?
- When you are jotting your main idea, ask yourself: Does my main idea reflect the title?

As you are reading, pause and think every time you have an answer to one of these questions:

- How does this section connect to previous sections?
- Based on what I’ve read so far, what is the author’s purpose for writing this text?

As you are reading, continually ask yourself:

- Why did the author write this text?
- What is the purpose of this text?

As you read, pause when you come across interesting vocabulary, descriptive language, or word choice. Ask yourself:

- What is the author trying to convey through his/her craft and structure moves?
- How does this help the author make his/her point?