Characteristics of a Good Reader

Why do some people enjoy reading so much, while others think reading is difficult and boring? Being a successful reader depends on the kind of thinking you do while you read. Good readers think certain thoughts that help them understand the text. Whether you love to read or think it’s torture, learning the characteristics of a good reader can make reading easier and more enjoyable!

1. Good readers **summarize** as they read.
   To summarize is to retell the main ideas or events in a story in your own words. This helps you focus on the key points and make sure you understand what you’re reading.

2. Good readers **make and revise predictions** as they read.
   When you make predictions you try to figure out what is going to happen in the text. This keeps your interest level high. It also causes you to notice details and to change and update your predictions.

3. Good readers **make inferences** as they read.
   When you make an inference you draw a reasonable conclusion based on information in the text. Authors often expect you to make inferences; they don’t come right out and say everything you need to know.

4. Good readers **ask questions** as they read.
   Good readers ask themselves questions to make sure that they’re understanding the text, and that the meaning they’re constructing makes sense.

5. Good readers **visualize** as they read.
   To visualize is to try to picture what the author is describing. This helps give you a very clear image of what you’re reading. It can also help you get into a story and imagine you’re there.

6. Good readers **synthesize** as they read.
   When you synthesize you combine new information with information you already know. You also combine the parts of what you’re reading and put them together to figure out what the whole thing is saying.

7. Good readers **make connections** as they read.
   Good readers connect what they’re reading to their personal lives and to the world around them. They try to figure out how the text fits in with the rest of life.

8. Good readers **determine important ideas** as they read.
   Good readers think about which information is essential and most important.
Characteristics of a Good Reader Bookmark

I want you to design a bookmark. This bookmark will help you learn, remember, and use the characteristics of a good reader. The assignment will be worth 20 points. Below, there is a checklist of all the elements needed in this bookmark.

1. Sturdiness. You can use cardboard, poster board, fabric, or any material of your choice to make your bookmark. However, it must be sturdy enough to last for a while. (2 pts.)

2. Characteristics. You must list all of the characteristics of a good reader on your bookmark. Remember, good readers summarize, ask questions, make connections, synthesize, make inferences, predict, and visualize, and determine importance as they read. (8 pts.)

3. Attractiveness and neatness. Your bookmark should be neat and colorful, and should include an illustration and/or attractive lettering. (8 pts.)

4. Appropriate size. Your bookmark should be sized so that it is practical to use. It should not be too thick, too thin (see sturdiness), too large or too small. (2 pt.)

This sheet is also due when you turn in your bookmark.

Now get creative and design some beautiful, educational bookmarks.

Grade: Sturdiness ____/2 Characteristics _____/8 Attractiveness ____/8 Size ____/2
Total: ____/20