

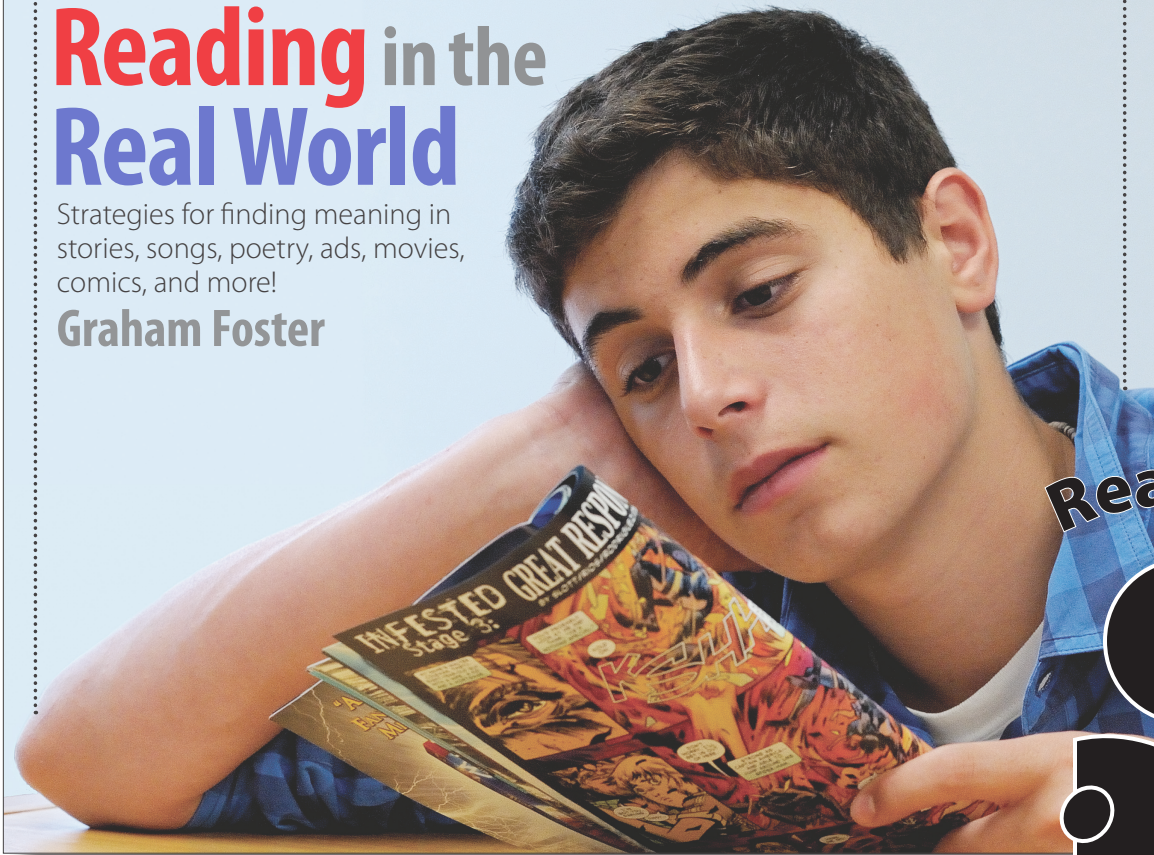
I Am a Reader!

Pembroke's Friday Freebie

Reading in the **Real World**

Strategies for finding meaning in stories, songs, poetry, ads, movies, comics, and more!

Graham Foster



Reading



Pembroke Publishers

1-800-997-9807 | www.pembrokepublishers.com

A Community of Readers

Your teachers have probably told you that the more you read, the better reader you will become. Good readers read because they want to—their independent reading is enjoyable and important to them. People read because it’s fun, and becoming a more proficient reader is a bonus!

You can improve your reading by sharing your responses to reading and talking about your favorite books. This strategy is consistent with the inclusive sense of meaning presented earlier in this book in that you can include emotional responses and personal connections in your comments about a book’s themes or ideas.

Remember that readers enjoy books at least as much for the emotional meanings and personal connections they contain as for the themes they suggest.

While talking about your own reading can empower you as a reader, even better is sharing with other people. Seek opportunities to discuss with others how they respond to text, as well as to listen to what they say about their favorite reading. Ideally, you will have the opportunity for such sharing in school. If you do, you will motivate classmates to read texts that you recommend just as you will enjoy texts recommended by classmates.

I Am a Reader!

READING PROFILE

Reading profiles represent a productive strategy for thinking about yourself as a reader. A reading profile will help you communicate your reading preferences to teachers and librarians in your ongoing search for books that you enjoy. In addition, it will help to focus your thinking for class and small-group discussions about reading for enjoyment.

My Reading Profile

Name: Fred Inge Date: June 3

My favorite book is *Dragon’s Milk* because *I love books about dragons and there is a lot of exciting action.*

When I describe myself as a reader, I use phrases such as *I like fantasy books and books I can’t put down.*

I like to read books that are *exciting and full of action.*

I’ve noticed the following changes in my reading preferences: *I’m thinking about reading other adventure books besides fantasies.*

Use My Reading Profile on page 27 to think about your own reading preferences.

READING LISTS

Listing and showing favorite titles is another way to understand yourself as a reader, to think about your favorite reading, and to share your reading preferences.

As part of a poetry unit, students read poems from poetry anthologies and websites. Each student prepared a list of Top 5 poems. In small-group sharing, students shared their Top 5 lists and offered brief explanations about their picks.

See page 28 for a My Top 5 list template. Top 5 lists can be prepared for favorite stories, blogs, or other text forms.

READING GOALS AND TARGETS

While personal reading for enjoyment is key, setting personal goals improves your reading as you enjoy different, possibly more challenging, texts.

Two or three times throughout the year, write a goals statement to place in your reading folder. You might include goals for

- the amount of reading that you do
- texts you would like to read
- your reading rate or speed
- additional ways you would like to respond to your reading
- strategies you would like to use more often

Your reading folder might also contain an Independent Reading Record (see page 29) for each book you read. This record is especially valuable if you want to improve your reading rate or speed. Set a time frame for each reading period, perhaps 15 or 20 minutes. Record the date; note the page on which you started reading and the page where you stopped reading to calculate the number of pages you read. At the end of each reading period, add a brief comment, summary, or prediction about what you have read.

Independent Reading Record

Name: Kim Tan

Title of Text: Tom Sawyer

Date	Start Page	Finish Page	Pages Read	Comment
Oct. 5	15 (top)	20 (middle)	4 ½	The part about Tom giving medicine to the cat is funny. I wonder if this could happen in real life.

My Reading Profile

Name: _____ Date: _____

My favorite book is _____

because _____

When I describe myself as a reader, I use phrases such as

I like to read books that are _____

I've noticed the following changes in my reading preferences: