Checklist for Reading Fiction and Nonfiction

Before Reading

_______ I think about the cover, the title, and the author. I think about what I know about the topic.
_______ I skim, looking at and thinking about any visual material.
_______ I read chapter titles.
_______ I read the back cover and information on the inside of the book jacket.
_______ I look at the end of the book to see if there are discussion questions or other materials related to the book.
_______ I ask questions about what I expect to learn from this book.
_______ I make predictions about character and the ending, especially if the book is fiction.

.. I research the book’s topic so I have some background knowledge.

During Reading

_______ I make mental pictures.
_______ I identify confusing parts and reread them, either aloud or while listening with my inner ear.
_______ I use any visual material (charts, graphs, photographs, diagrams, maps) to understand confusing parts.
_______ I identify unfamiliar words and use context clues to figure out their meanings. When that doesn’t help, I use a dictionary.
_______ I stop periodically and retell to see what I remember. If necessary, I reread.
_______ I predict what I think will come next. Then as I read, I confirm or adjust my predictions.
_______ I raise questions and read on to discover answers.
_______ I make a list of characters or key terms and use it as a bookmark.
_______ If I can write in the book, I write a brief summary phrase or sentence at the top of each page. If I can’t write in the book, I do this with sticky notes.

After Reading

_______ I think about the characters, settings, events, or new information and think about if I would recommend the book to others.
_______ I discuss or write my reactions and attempt to answer any remaining questions I might have.
_______ I reread parts I enjoy.
_______ I skim to find details.
_______ I write a brief summary at the end of each chapter.
_______ After I finish the book, I reread the first chapter to get a fuller understanding of the book.

Permission to duplicate this material was granted by Ms. Sharon Green, Coordinator of the Office of Academic Support, Niagara University.