

Sample Literacy Tool:

Reading Comprehension Focus

This set of reading comprehension tools can be used across classrooms to help students internalize the process of reading to learn. Having a consistent process, graphic organizers, and group conversation roles helps students create strategies for themselves to chunk complex texts and build the confidence to read grade-level texts. This same process can be used to analyze paragraphs, graphs, diagrams, and political cartoons.

1. Overview

MINE for Meaning



M
Main Idea

- What is the first sentence about?
- What is the last sentence about?
- What is the main idea in your own words?

I
Important Details

- Are there details that are strong evidence?
- Are there important numbers or quotes from the text?
- Are there images or graphs that have information?

N
Note Meaning

- What do you think this means in your own words?
- What is the main idea of this paragraph, chart, graph?
- Why is this important?

E
Explain and Extend

- How does this connect to the question you are trying to answer?
- What questions do you have for the author about this?
- What connections can you make to big ideas?
- What predictions do you have?

This overview document is a helpful tool for students and teachers. It can be used as a differentiation tool for teachers as they rotate for support.

2. Role Cards

MINE Roles

Main Idea

- The first sentence tells us this will be about...
- This is about...
- This paragraph is explaining how...
- This tells us...
- This is about...

Questions

- What else do you know about...?
- What is the main idea?

Important Details

- The word... is important because...
- The quote, "...," is important because...
- The data point... is important because...
- The trend in the graph is...
- The image has... and...

Questions

- Are there details that are strong evidence?
- What else is important?

Note Meaning

- This means that...
- This evidence is explaining...
- This is important because...
- Based on the evidence, the author is trying to say...
- The main idea of the graph is...

Questions

- What do you think... means?
- Why is this important?

Explain and Extend

- This helps answer the question because...
- This helps me understand...
- It would be helpful to know more about...
- I predict this will...
- I think the author...

Questions

- How does this connect to the question?

These role cards are meant to help students reinforce the reading comprehension via spoken language and vice versa.

3. Note Taker

MINE Note Taker

Questions to Answer _____

Paragraph	Main Idea	Important Details	Note Meaning and Explain

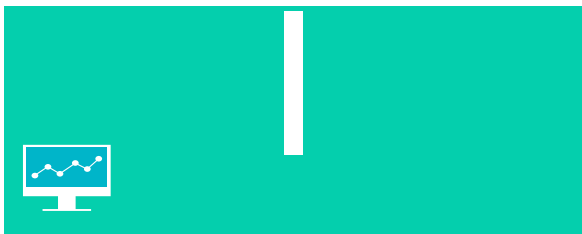
This note taker purposefully starts with a question. We want students to learn the content information, not just the process of comprehending a reading.

MINE for Meaning



Main Idea

- What is the first sentence about?
- What is the last sentence about?
- What is the main idea in your own words?



Important Details

- Are there details that are strong evidence?
- Are there important numbers or quotes from the text?
- Are there images or graphs that have information?



Note Meaning

- What do you think this means in your own words?
- What is the main idea of this paragraph, chart, graph?
- Why is this important?



Explain and Extend

- How does this connect to the question you are trying to answer?
- What questions do you have for the author about this?
- What connections can you make to big ideas?
- What predictions do you have?

MINE Roles

Main Idea



- The first sentence tells us this will be about...
- This is about....
- This paragraph is explaining how....
- This tells us...
- This is about...

Questions

- What else do you know about...?
- What is the main idea?

Important Details



- The word... is important because...
- The quote, "... " is significant because...
- The data point...is important because...
- The trend in the graph is....
- The image has...and...

Questions

- Are there details that are strong evidence?

Note Meaning



- This means that...
- This evidence is explaining....
- This is important because...
- Based on the evidence, the author is trying to say...
- The main idea of the graph is...

Questions

- What do you think...means?
- Why is this important? explain?

Explain and Extend



- This helps answer the question because..
- This helps me understand....
- It would be helpful to know more about...
- I predict this will...
- I think the author...

Questions

- How does this connect to the question?

MINE Note Taker

Question to Answer: _____

Paragraph	Main Idea	Important Details	Note Meaning and Explain