

READING ACTIVITY

READING POPULAR TEXTS* (Predicting*)

Dr. K. Elango, National Secretary, ELTAI &
(Formerly) Professor of English, Anna University, elangoela@rediffmail.com

- Objective** : To enable readers to personalize the practice of predicting before, during and after reading a text to make reading an exciting exercise
- Participation** : Individual
- Material** : Any popular text (Stephen R. Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*)
- Preparation** : Employing the prediction strategy consciously while reading any popular writing

Procedure:

- **Before reading** - When you look at the cover page of the book which has the details such as author - Stephen R. Covey, the title - *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective people*, the sub-title – *Powerful Lessons in Personal Change* and the information – 15 million copies sold - even before reading the first page you could predict what the book is likely to be and you stand to get the most even if your predictions are different from that of the author. Looking at each detail further on the contents page enables one to continue to make predictions about what each of them would be.
- **While reading** - Prediction has to continue throughout the reading. For instance, Covey writes, “Basically, there are three kinds of assets: physical, financial, and human. Let’s look at each one in turn.” (p 54). Before he describes those assets you could think of what he would mention about each of them and even if your predictions are totally divergent you needn’t be worried as the author has different perspectives.
- **After reading**– After reading the entire text you could verify how far your predictions were correct or incorrect. If correct, what information were you making use of to get them and if incorrect, what went wrong? Such an analysis would enable you to make accurate predictions in the next attempt.

Learning outcomes:

- 1) Learners realize that the prediction strategy compels them to stay focused on their reading without any distraction – in today’s context concentration has become a major issue for majority of readers.
- 2) Learners recognize that setting predictions constantly while engaged in reading can enable them to become creative readers.

Further activity: While reading any text, especially popular texts, consciously employing the strategy of prediction.

***Popular Texts:** Popular texts are those written by professional writers for a general audience on varied subjects ranging from self-help, motivational, relationships to biographies and memoirs. Some of the well-known writers are Paulo Coelho, Stephen Hawking, Napoleon Hill, Rick Warren, John Gray... so on. Their books are sold in millions and translated into several languages.

***Predicting:** Prediction is anticipating or thinking ahead of what one reads. It, in fact, begins with the moment a reader looks at the title of a book/article and continues with throughout the reading process and ends with only after reading it. This strategy engages readers actively with the text and makes the exercise interesting as they find their predictions turning out to be similar to that of the writer. Even if they are different they can draw satisfaction of their creativity.