

Why Read Literature?

This unit offers works that look at what matters to people—subjects like the struggle between human beings and nature, the idea of war, and how people deal with loss. In addition to reading about the theme, you might have other purposes for reading. Preview three of the purposes you might set before reading the works in this unit.

1

Read for the love of literature.

In 1955, the Vermont state legislature named a mountain in the town of Ripton, Vermont, after Robert Frost. Frost is famous for his poems depicting New England. Discover this poet's New England world by reading his poem "**Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening**," page 226.

Imagine being given 225,000 dollars. That's what happened to poet Sandra Cisneros in 1995, when the MacArthur Foundation awarded her a grant—a sum of money that is "granted," or given, to an individual or group to help them begin or continue a project. Read one of her works, "**Four Skinny Trees**," on page 230.

2

Read to gain understanding.

Joan Aiken's first published novel was adapted from a work she had written when she was only 17. Enrich your understanding of what matters when you read "**The Third Wish**," page 168, an unusual love story.

As a young man, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, took part in an unsuccessful revolution against King Ferdinand VII. Read "**The Charge of the Light Brigade**," page 198, to understand his feelings about courage under fire.

3

Read for information.

Although mountain climbers have been attempting to reach the top of Mount Everest—the world's highest summit—since the beginning of the twentieth century, the first successful ascent did not take place until 1953. Find out the dangers and disasters faced by contemporary climbers when you read an excerpt from Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air*, page 190.

You probably envision the color of the ocean as green, blue, or maybe gray. Sometimes, however, an event called algal bloom creates what scientists call a "red tide." Read about this worrisome ocean phenomenon in the textbook chapter "Algal Blooms," page 235.



Take It to the Net

Visit the Web site for online instruction and activities related to each selection in this unit.

www.phschool.com

How to Read Literature

Use Interactive Reading Strategies

When you get truly involved in your reading and read interactively, you will better remember what you read. The strategies in this unit will help you become an interactive reader.

1. Clarify word meanings.

In this unit you will learn strategies for clarifying, or making clear, word meanings and for incorporating new words into your speaking and writing. One way to interact with the text is by jotting down words you do not recognize or words that are used in a way you have not seen before.

2. Make predictions.

A prediction is an educated guess based on details you learn and your experience. The chart here shows how experience and details work together to help a reader make a prediction. As you read, make predictions about story events. Check your predictions against what actually happens.

3. Summarize.

Summarizing is a way of reviewing and restating main events or main points. Strategies in this unit will help you to identify the most important ideas. Then, you can think about the underlying meaning of events and actions.

4. Interpret figurative language.

Interpret the meaning of a work's figures of speech—expressions that are not meant to be interpreted literally. As you read prose and poetry in this unit, notice the effect figurative language has on a work.

Figure of Speech	Interpretation	Effect
They grow down and they grab the earth with their hairy toes and they bite the sky with violent teeth.	The roots hold tight in the earth and the branches create a sharp pointy outline against the sky.	The figures of speech create the impression that the trees are aggressive and tough in the way they grow.

5. Identify cause-and-effect relationships.

Ask yourself whether one event or condition is the reason for, or the result of, another event or condition. Identifying this relationship will deepen your understanding of what happens into an understanding of why it happens.

As you read the selections in this unit, review the reading strategies and look at the notes in the side columns. Use the suggestions to apply the strategies and interact with the text.

Detail

Title: "The Third Wish"



My experience

In many stories, characters don't like the way wishes turn out.



Prediction

The character will want to change his wishes.