



# Eagle and Wolf Strategy

## Use a reading guide

In the classroom, students benefit from visual prompts about how they should be looking at a text. Sometimes it is useful to use an **animal analogy** to give students a visual reference to help them understand why a particular approach is being used at a particular point, e.g. consider the

- **eagle**, with its keen eyesight, can see small prey on the ground but also the big picture
- **wolf** with a keen sense of smell doggedly follows the scent of its prey. It can travel by night and locate hidden things. It can recall past hunting experiences and good places to find prey, and can even draw on the resources of other wolves in the pack.

This approach of using the eagle's and the wolf's way of looking for prey in the 'terrain' of the text helps students avoid a superficial reading of the text so they can arrive at a whole-of-text meaning.

How to look	What the reader does
<b>Fly over the text</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read all the information around the extract, e.g. vocabulary, headings, illustrations.</li><li>• Think about why the extract may have been chosen. This will direct attention to what is important, not what is obvious or first mentioned.</li><li>• Look for any patterns in the terrain of the extract.</li><li>• Visualise the extract as if looking at a film.</li></ul>
<b>Hunt through the text</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Talk about strategies that help the reader to decode meaning, e.g.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– follow pronoun referencing or semantic threads</li><li>– think about how certain words are chosen to convey a meaning</li><li>– recognise the effect of figures of speech and imagery, commands, rhetorical questions, and strong or soft modality in verbs and adverbs</li><li>– be alert to tonal changes, how the ideas develop, and how a character's motivation is revealed.</li></ul></li><li>• Reflect on and appropriate the ideas of others after discussion has made other people's thinking visible.</li></ul> <p>All this will help you deduce the writer's purpose or intention.</p>
<b>Look deeper into the text</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Look for hidden information that might be accessed through empathising, interrogating figures of speech or the title, or detecting a seeming contradiction or problem in the text.</li></ul>
<b>Look beyond the text</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Look for connections to your prior knowledge.</li><li>• Think about the information you don't know that is relevant to the text, what you need to know and how you might find that information out.</li></ul>

## Annotate

The skills of both an eagle and a wolf are necessary for students annotating texts. The eagle identifies the big picture in the margins, then the wolf hunts through the text looking for clues that support the big picture. It is important for students to use highlighters and arrows to annotate texts. When students share annotations, metacognition occurs.

Motto: To annotate texts, make it dirty to make it clear.