

Identifying types of texts: getting ready to read

We can skim and scan the text to get us ready for the information we are about to read. This helps us to identify the type of text we are going to read and where we will find information.

What to look for before reading a short text

Skimming and scanning

We can look at:

- title
- any cartoons, photos or illustrations
- maps, diagrams or charts, mostly found in non fiction texts
- bold, italic, large or separated print for non fiction texts
- the first and last sentence
- the first and last paragraph

Think about what you already know about the topic.

What is the purpose of the text and how will this influence the way the words are written?

What to look for before reading a longer text

- title
- illustrations, cover page
- table of contents, chapter titles, blurbs on the dust cover
- introduction or notes
- any brief summaries at the beginning of each chapter
- any vocabulary or key word lists

Think about what you already know about the topic and which key learning area you have been asked to read it for.