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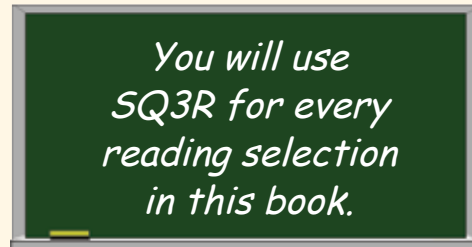
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## About SQ3R



SQ3R is the key to comprehension. The more you know about something before you read it, the better you'll understand it. SQ3R is simple, quick, and efficient.



### SURVEY

Look through the article quickly.  
Read the introductory paragraph.  
Then look at all:

- headings and subheadings
- captions
- pictures
- italic or boldface print

### QUESTION

Read the author's questions at the end of the selection.  
They give clues to the reading content as well.

HINT: Look for the answers when you read the article!



R  
E  
A  
D

Read the selection slowly. If what you read does not make sense, it means that you might have read something wrong, REREAD.

HINT: *Sometimes it may be necessary to read something two or more times to understand it.*



R  
E  
C  
I  
T  
E

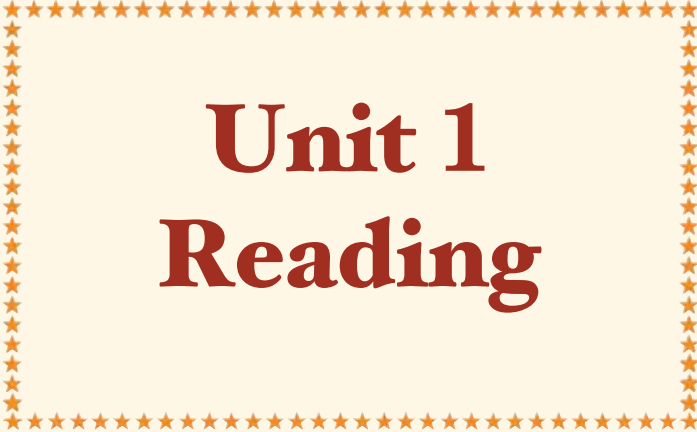
Say what you have read aloud. If you cannot retell it in your own words, it means that you did not understand it. REREAD. It helps to take notes on what you have read.

HINT: *Just the act of writing will help you remember the material!*



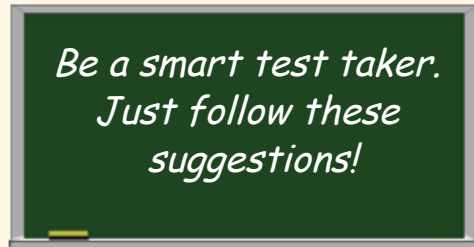
R  
E  
V  
I  
E  
W

Several days before a test, review your notes. Try to state the information in your own words. Have someone else ask you questions from your notes. In this book at the beginning of each unit, review the techniques for being a smart reader, writer, and test taker.



**Unit 1**  
**Reading**

# Test Taking Skills for Multiple Choice Questions



1. Read **all** answers given. Answer "a" may seem like a good answer at first, but answer "d" may be even better.
2. If you think you know an answer, skim through the choices to find it. Then check all the other choices to be sure.
3. Look back at the story for clues to the answers. It helps to underline the proof for your answer.
4. If you are not sure of an answer, circle the question and skip it for now. When you come to the end, go back. Words in other questions may help you remember.
5. NEVER LEAVE A BLANK. It will **almost always** be marked wrong. Take an "educated guess."
6. An educated guess means that first you cross off all answers you know are wrong. You can usually do this with 2 of the 4 answers. Then you have a 50-50 chance of getting it right. Take a guess.
7. Key words in the questions, such as BEST, MOST, and MAINLY are often written in capitals or dark print. Pay special attention to these important words.
8. The words AFTER and BEFORE tell us that the question deals with the sequence of events. Pay special attention to the order of what happened in the story.
9. Be careful of words such as BUT, NOT, and EXCEPT. They tell us that there is a change in the question.
10. The wrong answer choices often have words used in the story. Do not be fooled. Look for the right IDEA.

A Historical Correspondence

1861: Letter from Vinnie



SURVEY

After surveying this letter, I can tell that:

- 1. This correspondence took place shortly before \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - a. the Civil War
  - b. World War I

QUESTION

After looking at the questions at the end of the letter, I can tell that:

- 2. The letter is in response to \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - a. the passage of the 19th Amendment
  - b. the election of Lincoln
- 3. The letter writer resides in \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - a. Washington, D.C.
  - b. Arkansas

READ

**ANSWER BOX**

1. This correspondence took place shortly before the Civil War.  
 2. The letter is in response to the election of Lincoln.  
 3. The letter writer resides in Arkansas.

Read the next article carefully. If what you read does not make sense, reread!



# 1861: Letter from Vinnie

by Maureen Stack Sappéy

Tuesday, March 5

My dear friend Regina,

Yesterday I envied birds their wings, for I longed to fly northeast to our nation's capital city. There I would have alighted upon the dome of the Capitol building above the crowd and listened carefully as Mr. Lincoln spoke.

Sadly, I have no wings, and so I must practice patience until I can read about Mr. Lincoln's inauguration. I do hope the newspapers here in Arkansas faithfully report every word of his inaugural address.

Last night, in celebration of our new president, Ma made a grand supper of pork stew and slices of sugared bread – rare treats for us these days. My family has known some days of hunger, but spring is upon us and Ma has newly planted her garden.

After supper, my family gathered by the hearth, and Ma poured us glasses of cold cider. Wishing to reveal my respect for President Lincoln, I waited for a quiet moment and declared myself a Republican! My sister, Mary, laughed and said girls shouldn't concern themselves with politics since we cannot vote, but Pa admired my interest in Mr. Lincoln's new political party. He raised his glass and said, "As a family, we must heartily support our President."

Oh, Regina – I'm ashamed to admit what happened then! My brother, Bob, leapt up from his chair and stood glaring down at Pa. Bob looked almost giant, for he is much taller than other boys of fifteen years. Even his voice sounded giant, loud and angry, when he shouted "No!" at my pa. Bob called Mr. Lincoln an ugly baboon, and he screamed something that I didn't understand, about the secession of states.

As Bob stood there with his back to the hearth, the light of the fire encircled him; his red hair looked like bits of flame, and his blue eyes blazed as though his soul had ignited. His enraged face was the face of a fearsome stranger, not that of my beloved brother.

Poor Ma was affrighted and Pa demanded an apology, but Bob refused and stomped up the steps to his room.

My parents and Mary sat without speaking. Curiosity overcame my own silence, and I asked what Bob had meant by secession of states. Pa explained



that several southern states have broken away, seceded from out of the Union to protest Mr. Lincoln's victory in the election. Those rebellious states have formed a new nation called the Confederate States of America. Oh, Regina, our nation has been severed!

My sweet mother always frets whenever one of us is upset, and so she sugared more bread and took it upstairs to my brother. She found his window wide open – Bob had run away! Ma flew downstairs crying out for Pa, and he left at once to search for my brother. Shortly before midnight Pa found Bob sleeping on a bench at the train station, and after much talk he convinced him to come home.

Ever since last night, there has been an awful silence in my house, a sad sort of silence that suffocates me. If the inauguration of President Lincoln could cause so much sorrow in my own family, can you imagine the suffering throughout our nation? My heart is swollen with fear.

**Recite**

**Recite the problem this letter discusses.**

## Objective Questions

**Circle the letter next to the correct answer.**

1. The reader can conclude that the letter was written:
  - a. in a northern state
  - b. in a western state
  - c. in Washington, D.C.
  - d. in a southern state
2. The writer of this letter is:
  - a. an angry young man
  - b. a supporter of President Lincoln
  - c. a wealthy young lady
  - d. Bob's cousin, Vinnie
3. What does the writer predict as a consequence of Lincoln's election?
  - a. an end to slavery
  - b. the death of her brother
  - c. national strife
  - d. a lack of commitment
4. What is Mary's position on the election?
  - a. She sides with Pa.
  - b. She sides with Bob.
  - c. She thinks she should ignore it.
  - d. The story doesn't say.

Continue...

## Objective Questions

5. The family in this letter can best be described as:
- wealthy slave owners
  - urban factory workers
  - starving tenement dwellers
  - poor farmers
6. Why does the author describe the fire in the hearth?
- to provide a contrast to Bob's face
  - to emphasize Bob's angry appearance
  - to provide background for the story
  - to suggest a reason for Bob's anger
7. Read the following sentence from the story.
- I do hope the newspapers here in Arkansas faithfully report every word of his inaugural address.**
- Why might the Arkansas newspaper not give all the news?
- They might have untrained reporters.
  - They don't have the space to cover everything.
  - They might be against an anti-slavery leader.
  - Lincoln was known for his lengthy speeches.
8. How would you describe the writer of the letter?
- impulsive
  - conforming
  - timid
  - feminist
9. Bob's running away foreshadows or predicts:
- the perils of war
  - differences between generations
  - teen rebellion
  - family separations throughout the nation
10. How will the people in town MOST LIKELY treat Pa?
- as a fool
  - as an enemy
  - as uneducated
  - as a stranger

For **Editing Practice**, please go to page 94.