

## THE POWER OF REREADING

How many times have you said to yourself, "I didn't understand a word in this text," "I didn't get it," or "I wonder what this is all about?" I'm sure you have said these words or similar ones many, many times. All readers encounter that kind of situation many times. Sometimes it is due to the fact that the reader is not familiar with the topic of the reading. However, if you have to write a paper based on a reading, you know you have to do something!

What do you do when this happens? Do you give up and decide not to try to understand the text in front of you. We hope not! If you do, we are going to help you overcome those feelings of failure you might experience when this happens. We are going to suggest something that is very simple to do. The next time you read a text, and you feel you didn't understand a word of it, try REREADING it. Reading a text a second time allows you to discover a lot of information you didn't "see" or "process" the first time. It can also allow you to confirm or reject some idea you had about the text before reading it the first time. Maybe the first reading didn't allow you to verify whether you were right or wrong about a particular point, but the second reading

could allow you to do that.

Rereading is also an opportunity you give yourself to discover what is really in the text. Many times this second reading allows you to relate the text to your experiences. You can probably get the author's message (or purpose for writing this text) this time around too.

Have you ever reread a text before? If you haven't, try it. You will soon discover the power of rereading!

The following questions are going to give you an opportunity to think about a text you have to read. Please respond to the questions any time you are assigned to read a text in a class. You will observe that by writing about it, you will be able to understand it better. You might even be surprised to discover that even though you thought you didn't understand anything when you read it first, you did get some points! The second and even a third reading will enable you to comprehend much more!

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

AUTHOR: \_\_\_\_\_

1. DID YOU UNDERSTAND ANYTHING FROM THIS TEXT THE FIRST TIME YOU READ IT? IF YOU DID, WHAT DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

2. WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO RE-READ THIS SELECTION?

**3. WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER IN THE SECOND AND THIRD READING?**

**\*Good readers use rereading as a strategy to help them comprehend a text.**