

**THANK YOU** for downloading *Overview Explanation*  
that I created **FREE** for you.

In return, I ask that you...

- (1) Have fun!
- (2) Give me credit for my work if you share.
- (3) Refer others to my websites [www.LikeToRead.com](http://www.LikeToRead.com),  
[www.LikeToWrite.com](http://www.LikeToWrite.com), and [www.Facebook.com/LikeToWrite](http://www.Facebook.com/LikeToWrite)

I also ask that if you see any editing or content errors  
that you let me know  
by emailing me at  
[khaag@liketowrite.com](mailto:khaag@liketowrite.com)



I give permission to classroom teachers to use  
my materials with their students.  
For all other uses, please contact me.

Please feel free  
to email with questions 😊

Sincerely,  
Karen Haag

## Overview!

While preparing students to read, tell them about the gift they can give themselves to boost comprehension. We know that readers who take a minute to connect what they're going to read with what they already know will comprehend the new text better. Yep. 60 seconds = HUGE payoff.

We call the process *overviewing* or what we called a picture walk in the lower grades. The reader looks over the book or selection to set her purpose for reading. She figures out (1) what she already knows and (2) what she's reading to find out. Students can find out a lot of information quickly before they read.

1. Find the title; you'll most likely know the topic. Then, ask yourself, "Are you building on your prior knowledge or starting anew?" It's good to know because it affects your reading rate and level. If you know a lot about a topic, you have the vocabulary to tackle a harder book. Also, you can read more quickly and fluently.
2. "Who is the author?" If you know the author, you probably know what story structure to expect. You know whether the author uses humor, made-up words, short or long sentences. These style features won't trip you up as you read if you've read selections by the author before. But, if the author is new to you, you may have to slow down and get to know her style as you read.
3. "Do you now know the genre?" Knowing the genre means you know the story structure. Knowing the story structure also helps you reading more fluently. Knowing what to expect helps you just fill in the blanks. Not knowing means you have to learn as you go along. Take a minute to notice into which category you fall.
4. "What can you learn from browsing the pictures and/or captions?" By browsing the organizational structure of the story by viewing the pictures, you help your brain know what to expect. The photos and captions should help you zero in on what is important. The illustrations should help you get an idea about what you're about to read, even though you may not understand the title or know the author.
5. "What features of text stand out?" The bold and italicized words are often the most important details. Pay close attention. The features could also help you know whether you're reading fiction or nonfiction and that changes your purpose (get information vs. be entertained, for example).
6. "How long is the selection?" Knowing the length of the selection may or may not affect your reading experience. Only you know the length of your reading stamina. Plan ahead depending on what you discover about the length and what you know about your reading habits.

After taking a brief time to answer the overviewing questions, the reader should set her purpose for reading. She should form her purpose into a question. i.e.; Does the dog on the cover win the race? Once she reads and answers that question (if she does), she should think of a new question. i.e.; What is the theme of this selection?

The point of the overview is to teach readers to set and reset their purposes. This helps the reader focus and maintain attention. The reader is more likely to be interested in reading when the task is personal; what am I noticing? What am I reading to find out?

Picture Walk: <http://www.nationalserviceresources.org/learns/literacy-picture-walk>

## Overview!

60 seconds = HUGE payoff

Title  
Author  
Genre  
Pictures and/or Captions  
Features of Text  
Length

**PURPOSE?**