BE AN ACTIVE READER!
PRACTISE THESE COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES AS YOU READ!

CODE FOR COMPREHENSION
*   beside a statement or section of the text you think is important
?   beside a statement or section of the text which you find confusing
!   beside a statement or section of the text which surprises you
+   beside a statement or section of the text with which you agree

When you have finished reading the selection go back and place
    ** beside the statement or section of the text you think is the most important

TALK TO THE TEXT or MARK THE TEXT
- Know what you are looking for as you read. Are you looking for the answer to a question? Do you need to summarize what you have read? Will you be writing about something you are reading?
- Engage in a dialogue with the text by marking it with questions, comments, observation, etc. as you read
- Use highlighters, sticky notes, pen or pencil to help you "make meaning" of the text as you are engaged in the reading

MONITOR YOUR READING AND USE FIX-UP STRATEGIES WHEN YOU GET LOST OR STUCK

When you notice that you have lost the meaning of the reading
- Go back and reread.
- Read ahead to clarify meaning.
- Identify what it is you don't understand: word, sentence or concept.
- If it is a word, read beyond it and see if its meaning is clarified later in the text, or think about the content so far and predict what word might make sense. If those approaches don't work, ask someone what it means or look it up in a dictionary.
- Read to the end of a sentence to provide greater context for decoding single words.
- Reread the sentence to double-check understanding of meaning and syntax to help in decoding words.

SUMMARIZE AS YOU READ
- underline the topic sentence in the introductory paragraph
- underline the topic sentence in the rest of the paragraphs
- make a point form note in the margin for each paragraph
- use these notes to write a summary paragraph of the main idea in the reading