REAP (Read, Encode, Annotate, Ponder)

What is it?
REAP is a strategy for helping readers read and understand a text. REAP is an acronym for READ, ENCODE, ANNOTATE, PONDER.

Why use it?
As students go back to the text for each stage of REAP they will consider the text from a different vantage. Each stage asks the student to analyze the text at a higher level to increase and deepen comprehension.

How Does It Work?  After you have modeled and provided guided practice with this strategy, ask students to:
1.  R – read on your own
2.  E – encode the text by putting the gist of what you read in your own words
3.  A – annotate the text by writing down the main ideas (notes, significant words, quotes) and the author’s message
4.  P – ponder what you read by thinking and talking with others in order to make personal connections, develop questions about the topic, and/or connect this reading to other reading you have done

Example: Social Studies from the classroom of Christine Landaker.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REAP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>R</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Title: The Great Depression</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>E</strong></td>
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<td>On margin: borrowing money to buy stock from your broker.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
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| As long as the value of stock continued to rise, the buyer could sell later, pay back what he borrowed, and make a profit.  
*Some investor started to sell stock in September in fear the boom would end. |
| **P** |
| B.B. – the problem that led to the Great Depression began to give out warning signals in the early 1920’s.  
Question: Did any one think the crisis was temporary? |

See page two for blank worksheet.  
Adapted from Janet Allen: Tools for Teaching Content Literacy, 2004
R E A P

R

E

A

P

R  Read the text. Jot down the title and author
E  Encode the text by putting the main ideas in your own words/language
A  Annotate the text by writing a statement that summarizes the important points
P  Ponder the text by thinking and talking about what you learned. Ask yourself why the author wrote the text. What do you think the author hope you’ll learn?