

CHART OF FOUR DIFFERENT READING SPEEDS

(from MAKING BETTER READERS by Ruth Strang and Dorothy Kendall Bracken,
D.C. Heath and Company, 1957)

	RATE	PURPOSE	KIND OF MATERIAL
1.	Skimming (fastest)	To locate information. To skim for the main idea or to find out “What happened next”. To “survey” to get an overview and raise questions the selection can answer. (see below)	Directory, dictionary and any material which will yield a specific answer. Easy, simple materials, newspaper, magazine fiction. Study material, difficult material, material that must be organized, textbooks, technical articles.
2.	Speeded (reading fast)	To read rapidly for certain details or main ideas.	Any material on which main ideas and supporting facts are to be picked up – newspapers, magazines, stories, easy texts, etc.
3.	Study Reading (slow)	To read with maximum Understanding. SQ3R Survey Question Read in detail Recite Review	Text books, technical articles, any material which you can read in detail to organize, present to others, or for which you are held responsible.
4.	Careful and reflective reading (slowest)	To follow directions as, for example, how to make a cake or perform a chemistry experiment; to reflect on content; to evaluate; to enjoy; to read aloud to share an esthetic experience.	Directions; any work which contains great thoughts, such as Bible, etc.; some reports of current events; editorial pages of newspaper; poetry, drama, etc.; descriptive material; anything read orally.