

Figure 34.3

Clarifying Tools

<p>Is there something specific you don't understand: a word, phrase, concept, or idea?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask someone: an adult, an expert, a classmate, the author, or your teacher. 2. Look it up: in the dictionary, an encyclopedia, the index, the glossary, or on the Internet. 3. Make an inference based on your background knowledge: "This must be what the author means. I'm going to keep reading and see if I'm right." 4. Make an inference about the word's meaning based on the context or the word's structure.
<p>Is the text poorly written, disorganized, or very long?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chunk it physically: divide the text into smaller sections, and work on one section at a time. 2. Chunk it conceptually: divide the text into big ideas or concepts that fit with the subject or the subject matter that you're reading. 3. Draw a picture, diagram, or graphic organizer.
<p>Are you confused about the meaning of the text?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Connect what you have read to your own experience: "This reminds me of the time that . . ." 2. Read the back cover copy, the blurb on the inside front jacket, the preface, a chapter summary, the introduction, or a review of the book on Amazon.com for more clues. 3. Read the text again or even two or three more times if necessary. 4. Stop and think aloud to yourself about what you have read. 5. Talk to someone: think aloud to a friend, family member, or classmate. 6. Ignore temporarily the part you don't understand and keep reading.

Source: Adapted from McEwan, 2007. Used with permission.