

## Contextual Reading Ideas For Higher Level Students

You don't have to invest a lot of money or have a wide variety of selections. I've used the same stuff for decades. Here are some on my go-to list:

- Material from the student's classroom: assignments, articles, textbooks, handouts, worksheets, power points, whatever. Just so they're reading a lot.
- Magazine articles—Reader's Digest is a good one because there are plenty of articles that won't seem dated in 5 or 10 or 20 years. Usually there's one per issue that tells about a daring escape from a shark attack or being stranded in the mountains in a blizzard for 5 days. People losing body parts is pretty popular.
- Newspaper articles
- Classic short stories
  - Edgar Allen Poe
  - Agatha Christie
  - F. Scott Fitzgerald
  - *75 Short Masterpieces*
  - *Great Stories of Suspense and Adventure*
  - Google "short stories for middle school students" (or whatever)
  - This is a great website for classics  
<https://americanliterature.com/>
- Books with short selections that include words they'll need to divide and analyze. These can be found on the bargain racks at Barnes and Noble. Some that I've used for decades:
  - *Wild Little Weird Tales*

- *Book of Totally Useless Information*
- *How Do They Do All That?*
  
- Poetry—read 2 or 3 times each
  
- Selections from a test prep book for the SAT, ACT, GRE, etc. Doesn't matter if it's current because they're usually pretty timeless. They show up at garage sales and Goodwill.
  
- ChatGBT—for example you can request a 5-paragraph article about how the brain learns to read written at a 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading level or 3 paragraphs about the Final Four written at an 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading level.
  
- Your college literature textbook will have a good variety.
  
- Your neighbor's college literature textbook, or your spouse's or your offspring's, or one you pick up at Goodwill or a garage sale.