

## How to “Read Like an Actor”

**Frontloading:** Tell your students that today they will be reading like actors! This means they, like actors, must read, interact with, and investigate the text in a very specific way to fully comprehend its characters.

**Step 1:**                    **Search for and record evidence of character from the text**

- Find everything in the text the writer explicitly states in relation to the characters
- Take notes on what you find. You may write directly on the text or take notes separately
- Can be done individually or in groups

**Step 2:**                    **Create a biography of each character**

- Now use the information you have identified and extrapolate from it
- Make inferences and draw logical conclusions based on the textual information to write about the character’s life from birth to the time the story begins.
- Can be done individually or in groups
- Students can write biographies of all of the characters in a story or you can split the characters among the students.

**OPTIONAL Step 3:**    **Fill in any time gaps in the story line**

- Identify any time gaps in the story line
- Based on textual evidence, make inferences and draw logical conclusions to determine what occurs during each time gap to link sections of the story together and maintain a sense of continuity in characters’ lives
- Can be done individually or in groups
- Can be done as a writing assignment or discussion