

QUESTIONS FOR DAVID W. MOORE



Q. Did you like reading when you were in school?

A. I liked reading in school the most when we had something other than the textbook. I liked reading magazine articles and library books that related to what we were studying. When I was in college and decided to be a teacher, I read everything I could find about teaching. I wanted to be the best teacher possible.

Q. Is there anyone who has particularly helped you along the way as a reader?

A. My mother made sure I always had lots of interesting things to read when I was growing up. For instance, she often drove to the library during the summers so my sister and I could stock up on books for our afternoons staying indoors because of the Phoenix heat. My mother and I often talked about what each other was reading.

Several teachers connected me with books that really stretched my mind, and they often asked just the right questions to lead me to new ways of thinking. Finally, I have a few friends who tell me about new books or authors they think I might like.

Q. In Chapter 1, Read for Real, you write about different purposes for reading. Why do you read?

A. My recent trip to a professional conference in New York is a good example of why I read. The invitation to critique some researchers' reports in New York came through email, then the conference organizers and I went back and forth through email several times to straighten out our plans. Next, I worked my way

through several web pages to reserve my air flight and hotel and register for the conference. Before flying to New York and while on the plane, I carefully and critically read the three reports which were about 40-pages each. While navigating the New York subway system, I read numerous informational signs and maps. On my return flight I read the paperback novel I had taken along. As this example shows, reading is a natural part of my life. I read mainly to accomplish things, to learn new ideas, and to enjoy myself.

Q. Who are your favorite authors?

A. My reading follows my general interests. I'm from the U.S. west, and I like the country here, so my favorite authors are ones who write well about the western outdoors. Edward Abbey, Wallace Stegner, and Barbara Kingsolver are outstanding at showing how the western land and climate shape the ways people think and act. Tony Hillerman, Larry McMurtry, and Cormac McCarthy write very different types of stories set in the western outdoors, but I find them all to be great reads.

Q. You know a lot about words! Do you still learn new words? What do you do most often when you see a word that you don't know?

A. I find words to be endlessly fascinating. Did you know that the word "run" has more meanings than any other English word? (e.g., "Walk, don't run!" "He hit a home run," "She looks run down," "Don't run out of water") Did you know that

pneumonoultramicroscopicsilica-volcanoconiosis is the longest English word? Studying words can be great fun, like assembling a puzzle or solving a mystery.

I pay attention to new words as well as new ways of using old words. You never know when something interesting will turn up. For instance, technology is giving us new words (blog, podcast, wiki; texting, googling, phishing) and new meanings for old words (spam, mouse, sock puppet; hack, flame, lurk). What fun!

When I meet words I don't know, I always look at the surrounding words for clues to the new word's meaning. Then, if the word is long, I break it down, looking for meaningful parts. Take another look at

pneumonoultramicroscopicsilica-volcanoconiosis. The "osis" at the end is what you see at the end of "tuberculosis"; it means condition. The "pneumono" at the beginning of the word is what you see in "pneumonia," a lung disease. So this word refers to a condition of the lungs. Look for other parts of the word that tell more about this condition.

Q. If you could give any advice to young readers, what would it be?

- A. The more you read, the more you develop your mind. So stay with reading. Keep open to new ideas, new ways of thinking about the world. Who knows where it will take you?!