

How to Read a Book

Chapter 10 Discussion Questions

1. Reading a book is like a conversation between the author and the reader. As such, the job of the reader is to talk back to the author. Describe the responsibility of the reader. (p. 137)
2. What is meant by the phrase 'teachability as a virtue' and what does this have to do with the interaction between the reader and the author of a book? (p. 138-139)
3. Discuss the responsibility of being a reader, and the role of rhetoric (or rhetorical skill) on the role of the author and the reader. (p. 140)
4. What is Rule 9, which begins this third stage of reading, and what is meant by this rule? Discuss what is meant by agreeing, disagreeing, and suspending judgment. (p. 141-142)
5. Following the discussion of the reader criticizing an author's book, the importance of Rule 10 becomes apparent. What is Rule 10, and what is meant by this rule? (p. 144-146)
6. State Rule 11 and discuss the distinction between knowledge and opinion. Summarize the three maxims discussed – and stated in Rules 9 through 11 - which state the conditions of critical reading that should be met before readers "talk back" to authors. (p. 148-149)

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