Reading with questions

An original mini e-book • IntentX editorial example

Chapter 1: Begin with a question

Before reading a chapter, write down one question you want it to answer. A question gives attention a direction. Instead of collecting every interesting sentence, you start noticing which passages help you understand the problem.

For example, a reader studying city gardens might ask: What makes a shared garden last? A paragraph about regular maintenance now matters more than a list of attractive plants.

Chapter 2: Keep evidence beside the idea

A useful note has three parts: the idea in your own words, a short supporting passage, and a location you can find again. The passage helps you check whether your interpretation has drifted from the author’s meaning.

A summary is a map, not the territory. If a decision depends on a detail, return to the source and read the surrounding paragraphs.

Chapter 3: Test your understanding

Close the book and explain one idea using a new example. If the example only repeats the author’s words, try again with a situation from your own work.

Then ask yourself what would make the idea fail. This turns remembering into understanding. A good reading session ends with a clearer question, not just a longer list of highlights.