

READING COMPREHENSION ON GMAT IS LIKE THE MOVIE

GMAT RC Passages are like the typical Movie stories (Good ones). Every Good story has The Beginning – The Middle – The End. Like-wise Passages / Stories in GMAT RC too have Beginning, Middle and End.

CONFLICT/ PURPOSE

Every story has a Conflict; the purpose of the story is to resolve / explain that Conflict. Similarly Passages on GMAT RC too have a Major Conflict. This conflict defines the Main Purpose of the Passage. So look for a Major Conflict. In Movies, the Main Conflict will be at the Beginning (Usually in the first 20 mins of your 120 mins movie). In case of RC Passages you will find the Main Conflict (Primary Purpose) mostly in the first paragraph. Sometimes, it can be the first sentence of Second Paragraph. The rest of the story/passage is only to explain or resolve that Conflict.

PLOT POINTS/ TRANSITIONS

Every good Story has Plot Points – Points at which story changes the direction/ tells you which direction it is going. Normally prepares you for the next scene. Similarly most GMAT RC's also have Plot Points (read as Transitions). These transitions will help you identify how the story is moving or why author may be mentioning about something. You have to learn the craft to identify them quickly without getting into the story too much.

CHARACTERS/ SPECIFIC WORDS

Every story has Characters that will take the story forward. In GMAT RC Passages also you will have Specific Words that takes the Story Forward. In a movie you will notice that there are many characters in the movie that are of NO relevance to the main story. Similarly even on GMAT RC Passages you will find some many extra characters (So called “Specific Words or important words”) that will NOT help story move forward. Any character (read as Specific word) is important to us ONLY if it is taking the story forward else it is of NO use to us.

FILLERS

Finally, if you carefully observe in most of the movies (in those 120 mins) there are lot of fillers – not necessary for the Movie at all. Similarly even in RC passages you will find some unnecessary filler sentences (they are mostly unnecessary and incomprehensible) – These sentences act as our mind blockers / hurdles. You must be careful enough not to give them too much attention or get carried away.

In the next few discussions, I will tell you the different genres of stories in GMAT RC Passages and how passages of different genres are structured.

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