LEARNING CENTER ENGLISH TUTORING LAB HANDOUT
HOW TO READ NARRATIVE (STORIES)

Mark the material:

- places where you note a change, something new
- places where you are surprised or puzzled
- places where you note important details
- places where you speculate about larger issues like life or circumstance (can be marginal note)

Questions to ask:

- What incident has the author selected to tell about?
- Who is involved
- What is the setting?
- What happens in the story?
- Does any special mood (tone) emerge?
- What does the author want us to remember?
- What is the point being made?
- What is the author's purpose in recounting this incident?

Updated 6/01/02
Handout created by the staff and students of the DVC Learning Center. Copyright 2003.