

The first thing we do when are faced with a TEXT DEPENDENT ANALYSIS is to make sure we **understand the text**.

As you read, be sure to use your reading strategies!

- Underline important information
- Look for character traits
- Take notes on the plot
- What other strategies can you use??

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Lost Lake

excerpt from *The Secret Life of Amanda K. Woods*
by Ann Cameron

One summer day Amanda Woods traded her right hand for Lyle Leveridge's. Years later, she would think of that day as the beginning of a new life. At the time, though, she only knew it was the end of something.

It was a Monday in August. Amanda woke late. On the other side of the bed, her sister Margaret's side, the covers were flung back and Margaret was gone. Margaret, who was seventeen, had a summer job at North Wisconsin Hospital. The hospital was in the town of Rome, ten miles away, so Margaret had to wake up early.

Amanda went to the window. Outside, the branches of the oak tree were twisting in the wind. There were big angry waves all across Lost Lake.

Amanda shivered. She quickly put on her favorite T-shirt and jeans and her cowboy boots. Then she left the house and took the sandy path along the lake to Lyle Leveridge's place, to get there before it really was too late.

Amanda's family and Lyle's were the only people who lived on Lost Lake. Amanda and Lyle were eleven. They had been best friends for five years, ever since the Leveridges had rented the land next door to the Woodses' and put a house trailer on it.

When Amanda and Lyle were little, they had played with toy cars and trucks, making roads and bridges and towns on a bare earth-mound in Lyle's yard. They swam together, and after Amanda got her horse, Skipper, they rode him double, bareback.

Lyle's dad, who worked at the lumberyard in Rome, had built Lyle a shack out of boards so he could have a special place of his own. Little by little, Lyle had filled it with an enormous collection of comic books. On rainy days, he and Amanda read them all day long.

Pushed by the wind, Amanda climbed up the hill from the lake to Lyle's place, where everything was changed. The Leveridge's lawn chairs were gone, and so was their rusty barbecue grill. Lyle's shack was gone, too. Lyle's dad had taken it down and sold the boards. Now, under the pine tree that had sheltered it, only its hard-packed dirt floor remained. The Leveridge's house trailer