Mind mapping is a highly effective way of getting information in and out of your brain. Mind mapping is a creative and logical means of note-taking and note-making that literally "maps out" your ideas.

All mind maps have some things in common. They have a natural organizational structure that radiates from the center and they use lines, symbols, words, color and images according to simple, brain-friendly concepts. Mind mapping converts a long list of monotonous information into a colorful, memorable and highly organized diagram that works in line with your brain's natural way of doing things.

Mind/concept mapping can be done for several purposes:
- To generate ideas (brainstorming, etc.);
- To design a complex structure (long texts, hypermedia, large web sites, etc.);
- To communicate complex ideas;
- To aid learning by explicitly integrating new and old knowledge;
- To assess understanding or diagnose misunderstanding.

Books for your sense of humor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catch 22</td>
<td>Joseph Heller</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Fidelity</td>
<td>Nick Hornby</td>
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<td>Superstud</td>
<td>Paul Feig</td>
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<tr>
<td>When You Are Engulfed in Flames</td>
<td>David Sedaris</td>
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<tr>
<td>At Wit’s End</td>
<td>Erma Bombeck</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</td>
<td>Stephen Chbosky</td>
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The Benefits of Reading are Endless

1. Enhanced smarts
Those that read have higher GPA’s, higher intelligence, and increased knowledge over those that don’t. It also keeps your mind sharp as you age. No matter what you’re wanting to do or become, you can’t do it without more knowledge. As a result, reading is an excellent way to get where you want to go in life.

2. Reduced stress
Had a stressful day? A book can be a nice distraction from life.

3. Improved analytical thinking
Readers improve their general knowledge, and more importantly, are able to spot patterns quicker. If you can spot patterns quicker, your analytical skills receive a boost.

4. Increased vocabulary
It’s no secret that reading increases your vocabulary and improves your spelling. A beefier vocabulary isn’t just for writers though. Knowing what other people are saying while using precise words to convey your own feelings is a critical part of being a better human being.

5. Improved memory
Reading also increases your mental acuity and memory which are important tools in the information age!

6. Improved writing skills
The more you read, the better writer you’ll become. This isn’t much of a stretch considering that reading improves vocabulary and critical thinking. However, bloggers and other writers need to refine their skills on a daily basis. Surrounding yourself with good books and good writers will have a profound impact on your ability to communicate with others.

“Life-transforming ideas have always come to me through books.”
-Abraham Lincoln

“A person who doesn’t read is no different than a person who can’t read.”
-Mark Twain

Speed Reading Tips!

1. Prioritize Your Reading
Create three piles for your reading materials: important, moderately important, and least important. Then read the material in order of importance.

2. Skim Material First for Main Ideas
Scan the table of contents and the first and last sentences of each paragraph. You’ll improve your reading speed and comprehension if you understand a book’s structure.

3. Use a Flexible Reading Speed
Some reading material must be read slowly and carefully: legal contracts, mathematical equations, and poetry are a few examples. Other reading material can be read at much faster speeds: newspapers, magazines, and novels. Adjust your reading speed based on your purpose and the type of material you are reading.

New York Times Bestsellers

UNBROKEN
by Laura Hillenbrand

A STOLEN LIFE
by Jaycee Dugard

THUNDER DOG
by Michael Hingson

THE HAPPINESS PROJECT
by Gretchen Rubin

THE SIXTH MAN
by David Baldacci

Quick Review: *The Windup Girl*
In a future Thailand, calories are the greatest commodity. Anderson is a calorie-man whose true objective is to discover new food sources that his company can exploit. Mature readers with an interest in political or environmental science fiction or those for whom dystopias are particularly appealing will be intrigued. If they are able to immerse themselves completely into the calorie-mad world of a future Bangkok, they will not be disappointed.

Karen E. Brooks-Reese, Carnegie Library-Pittsburgh, PA