Here's some info on how to use the #text_in_a_box method:

```
.text_in_a_box(message, box, squeeze_factor=1.0, args=nil,
ents=Sketchup.active_model.active_entities, transparent=false)
```

Here's some example code:

```ruby
Sketchup::require 'dp_flat_text/dp_flat_text_main'

def my_method
  model = Sketchup.active_model
  fto = DP::Plugins::FlatText::FlatTextObject.new
  message = 'Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of their country.'
  box = [[0,48,0],[256,48,0],[256,0,0],[0,0,0]] # 3D coords: upper-left, upper-right, lower-right, lower-left
  squeeze = 0.8 # Optional parameter. Default is 1.0 (no squeeze). Only used if needed to fit in the box
  args = {  # you may provide any, all, or none of these settings arguments to override the model's prefs
      :font  => 'AHDuplex', # name of the FlatText font to use
      :scaleX => 1.5, # width scale factor
      :scaleY => 1.2, # height scale factor
      :material => 'Green', # color of the text - may be (none) or any color already in the model
      :back_color => '(none)', # color of the background, if opaque background is used
      :back_width => 'T', # T is the text (box) width, M is the minimum width that fits the text
      :line_spacing => 1.5, # 1.0 for single spaced, 2.0 for double spaced, 1.5 for 1-1/2 spaced lines
      :just => 'F', # 'L'eft, 'R'ight, 'C'enter, or 'F'ull justification
      :vert_align => 'M' # 'T'op, 'M'iddle, or 'B'ottom of the box - default is Middle
      }
  ents = my_group.entities # assumes there's a group called 'my_group' that you want to put this FT into
  transparent = true # see SketchUp API docs for Model#start_operation - this is the fourth parameter
  model.start_operation('test text in a box', true)
  my_flat_text_group = fto.text_in_a_box(message, box, squeeze, args, ents, transparent)
  model.commit_operation
end
```

You will get a brand-new FlatText group, built to your preferences and moved and scaled to fit into the "box." You can specify a "squeeze factor" to allow the text to be a bit narrower if it needs to be. Great for making things like schedules, charts, and graphs!

UPDATE for version 4.5.2:
Added the :vert_align key to the args hash. The FlatText can now be Top, Middle, or Bottom aligned in the box. The default setting is 'M' (middle) alignment, meaning the text will be vertically centered in the box. This means, for example, that if the FlatText must shrink to fit in the box, the top and bottom of the text will move away from the top and bottom of the box. If you want the top or bottom of the FlatText to stay put, set :vert_align to 'T' or 'B' instead.

READING a FlatText

Reading a FlatText is pretty simple, since all FlatText glyphs are named with their unicode number (in decimal format). Here's a simple method that takes a FlatText group as a parameter and returns a string:

```
def read_message(myFT) # read a FlatText group, return a string
  the_str = ''
  ents = myFT.entities
  ents.each do |e|
    if e.kind_of?(Sketchup::ComponentInstance)
      str = e.definition.name
      if str[0,5] == "Glyph"
        ucode = str[/\d+$/]
        the_str << ucode.to_i
      end # if it's a Glyph
    end # if e.kind_of?
  end # ents.each
  the_str
end # def read_message
```