



Character

How would you describe a character in the book?

Where did you see the character showing this trait?

Do any characters change during the story (we call these round), or do they stay the same at the end as they were at the beginning (we call these flat)?

How does the personality of a person in the book contribute to his or her success or failure?



Character

Describe the main character. Does the character seem real to you?

Why do you like or dislike one of the characters?

Compare the main character's personality at the beginning of the story with his or her personality at the end of the story.

If you could change the behavior of any character, which one would you change? Why?



Character

Make a list of six words that describe the main character.

What were some of the problems or situations the characters encountered?

Describe two events that portray the main character's personality.

List one descriptive word for each character.



Covering the Basics

Where does the story take place?

When does the story take place?

Who are the main characters?

Describe the characters.

What happens in the story?



What If?

How would the problem change if the story took place elsewhere?

How would the characters' actions change if the story took place during another time?

How would the solution change if the story happened in another place?

If you were to choose a friend from the characters in the book, which one would you select? Why?



Biography

Why would an author write a biography about this individual?

How might the author have learned about this person?

What were the major struggles that this individual faced?

What else would you like to know that this book did not include?



Bloom's Taxonomy

What is the main idea of the story?

How does this story relate to your own life?

What lesson might the author be trying to teach us?

Why is this book significant?



Focus on Illustrations

What do you notice from the illustrations?

Based on the illustrations, what is the book about?

Can you use artistic terms to describe the pictures in this book?

What details do you find intriguing?

What effect does the choice of color have upon you?

How would the effect of the illustrations change if the illustrator had used primarily dark brown (sepia) instead?



Plot

Explain a problem that one of the characters had. How was it solved?

Would there have been a better solution?

Which scene would make a good preview, or trailer, for a movie?

What was the turning point of the story?

Is the plot true to life?

What situation aroused your greatest feeling of suspense?
What was the final outcome?



Setting

Describe the main setting of the novel.

Is the story closely related to the setting, or could it have taken place nearly anywhere?

How might the author have collected information for the setting of the story?

Describe a journey in the story.



Considering the Story

Explain the title.

To whom might you recommend this book? Is there a particular group or population that you think would enjoy this book?

Does the book have any value beyond entertainment?

How has the book influenced your viewpoint?

What might you tell the author if you were to write to him or her?



Considering the Story

How is the problem solved at the end of the story?

How well might this book work as a movie?

What do you consider the strongest feature of the book? The weakest?

What did you learn from this book?

Make a timeline of the story events.



Character

Choose any character. What type of individual is that person/animal/thing?

List the characteristics necessary for you to like someone. How do they apply to the story characters?

Rank order the story characters from your favorite to your least favorite.

Which character could be eliminated from the story?
What effect would that have?

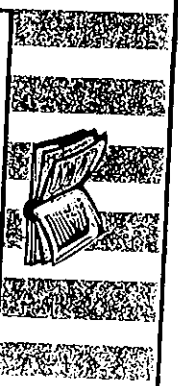


Character

How does the main character stand out from the other characters?

Do you think your friends would enjoy meeting the main character? Why? How do you think the main character would like your friends?

If you had been one of the characters, would you have done anything differently? Why?



What If?

What were some of the characteristics of the main character that you liked?
Which traits did you dislike?

Would you want to read other books about these characters? Why?

What would you do if one or more of the characters moved into your neighborhood?



Character

What gift would you like to give the main character? Why?

Illustrate some of the similarities between two or more characters.

How might you rewrite this story to include one of your friends as a character?

If you were the author, what further episodes, events, or discoveries would you have the characters participate in?



Setting

List all the places that the story took place.

Think of six words that describe a setting from the story.

Why did the author place the story in this location?

Do you think the setting for this story was real or imaginary? Why?

Locate the probable location for the story on a map. If the setting is imaginary, draw it.



Setting

Why was the setting an appropriate place for this story to take place?

Do you think the author would enjoy writing a story that took place where you live? Why?

Would you want to live in a setting similar to the story location?

How might your parents or friends react to living in the story setting?



Setting

Was the location of the story portrayed realistically?

What are some other locations that could have provided the setting for the story?

List all the places in the story

- That have plants.
- That have technology
- That have animals
- That have carpeting
- That have windows
- That have numbers



Considering the Story

Which scene would you most like to illustrate? What colors would you use? Why?

Write advertising copy to sell this book.

If you were to visit the setting of the story, what would you pack to help you survive there?



Plot

What were some of the most important events in the story? What were some of the least important events in the story?

Summarize the story

- In 25 words or fewer.
- In 10 words or fewer.
- In 5 words or fewer.

List the characteristics of a good story. Which ones apply to this story?



Character

What changes would you like to make to the ending?

Why did the author write this story?

How do you think the following people would react to this story:

- your parents
- your neighbor
- your brother or sister
- your doctor

Explain your thoughts.

Did you enjoy the way the story began?



Considering the Story

Do you think the topic of this story is important?

What does the title mean?

How are the events in the story similar to the events in your own life?

What would be important for an author to remember when trying to write an interesting story?

Do you think there is a lesson to be learned from this story? Why or why not?



Character

Would you like the main character as a best friend?

What qualities lead you to that decision?

How might the protagonist have made a better decision?

List details about the setting that might help determine where the story takes place.

Would an older child enjoy this story? A younger child?



Considering the Story

Which character has the biggest problem? Why? How did you arrive at that decision?

If you were to turn this book into a movie, which scene would you use for the trailer (movie preview)?

Would this story work as well in another setting?



What If?

What did you learn from the main character that would be useful or harmful in your own life?

What might the characters say if they came into your classroom?

Why did the story end the way it did?



Theme

Does this book remind you of another book or story that you have read? What are the similarities?

Is the plot similar to any other fiction you have read?

Do the characters remind you of someone in your family, or someone in government (senator, president)? In what way?



Theme

Does the author seem to be trying to leave the reader with an increased understanding of some aspect of life?

Do the ideas of kindness, helping, and making the world a better place emerge in this book? In what ways?

Some books provide examples of goodness conquering evil. Does this book provide any?



Theme

What lesson does one or more characters learn that will help to improve their lives?

What obstacles does the setting provide that the main character must overcome?

What is the climax of the book (the point at which all of the action comes together, the highest point of interest)? Not all stories have a climax.



Theme

Do you think that the author is trying to provide a "moral" or a major lesson?

How does the protagonist (main character) overcome problems in this book?

Is there an antagonist (someone who provides an obstacle) to the main character? What details lead you to your decision? What happens to that character?