

Developing Active Reading with Effective Questions

Before reading, ask...

- What can you predict about the story from the front and back cover of the book?
- What does the title tell you about the story?
- Who or what do you predict this story will be about? Why do you think so?
- Where and when do you think the story will take place?
- What other stories have you read that are like this one? In what ways?
- Have you read anything else by this author? Do you see any similarities between this story and the author's other stories?
- What questions do you have about this story?

After reading the first chapter or part, ask...

- Were you right about your prediction? How do you know?
- What has the author told you about the main character? What does the character look like? Act like? Say? Think? Feel?
- What do you think the problem or conflict will be in the story?
- How do the illustrations contribute to the story?
- What questions do you now have about this story?
- What do you think is going to happen next in the story? Why?

During the reading, ask...

- How is the setting important to the story?
- Who are the minor characters in the story? How do they contribute to the plot?
- What can we learn about the characters from what they say and do?
- What is the relationship between the minor character(s) and the main character?
- What problem(s) does the character have to solve?
- What is the most important event in each chapter or section of the story?
- Does the author make you want to keep reading? If so, how?
- Did you make a picture in your mind while reading? Describe the picture and tell the words that helped to give you this picture.
- Can you relate any part of this story to an event in your life?
- How do you think the story will end?
- What questions do you have about an event or character in the story?
- What do you think is going to happen next in the story? Why?



Developing Active Reading with Effective Questions, cont.

After reading, ask...

- How accurate were your predictions? What clues did you miss when you made your predictions?
- How did the story end? How was the problem or conflict resolved?
- Did you like the ending of the story? Did you expect the story to end in that way? Would you have ended the story differently? How?
- What clues did the author use to create the ending of the story?
- How did the minor characters contribute to the ending of the story?
- What could be an alternative ending for this story?
- What was the most exciting/interesting part of the story?
- Was there a part of the story that you didn't like or found disinteresting? How would you change it?
- How did the main character change during the story?
- In what ways can you relate to the characters?
- What words would you use to describe the characters in the story? How and when did the characters show these traits?
- How did the problems/conflicts contribute to the pace/humor/drama of the story?
- Why do you think the author chose this genre to tell the story?
- In what ways did the story fit the genre?
- How did the author's writing style contribute to the telling of the story?
- How did the author use imagery to tell the story?
- How did the author use dialogue to tell the story?
- Would you use a different title if you were the author?
- What did the author make you think about as you read the story?
- What questions do you have for the author?
- How is this story like/unlike other stories you have read?
- What are some questions you would ask someone else who has read this story?
- Would you recommend this story to your friends and family members to read? Why or why not?

The contents of this sheet were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.

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