

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?
- 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?

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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?

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