



Predicting

Before reading

- What do you think this story will be about?
- Where and when is it set?
- Who do you think the book is written for?
- What kind of story do you think it will be?
- Can you get any clues about the type of story from the first paragraph?

During reading

- What would happen if a character was not in the story?
- What would you do now if you were the main character?
- What clues are in the text to suggest that something could happen?
- What do you think will happen to the characters next?
- Can you find some evidence in the story to back up your predictions?

Questioning and clarifying

- What is unusual about the story?
- What would you like to know about the main character?
- Tell me more about the setting of the story.
- How would you describe the dilemma?
- Tell me more about the tense parts of the story.
- How do you think the author creates tension in the story?
- What would you like to ask the author?
- Why do you think the author describes the character in this way?
- Use information/evidence from the story to explain why you think that.
- Good writers make careful word choices. Which verbs do you think give us an exact image of how something is happening?
- How do the different characters help each other?
- Why do you think this has happened?
- Do you think the author is being fair to all the characters?
- Can you find any clues in the story to help you work out why they acted like that?
- After reading the story, create a list of questions you would like one of the characters to answer.

Imagining

- Use information from the story to draw a character or setting.
- Imagine you are one of the minor characters – tell the story from your point of view.
- Write a short diary entry of an important event in the story from a character's point of view.
- Collect words to describe the sensation a character might feel as they travel: what might they hear, see, feel and smell?
- Use a story map to show the main character's life so far, and write additional information on it about the people they have met and how they have treated them.
- How would it feel to arrive in a totally new place? Write a quick diary entry of the character's first impressions.
- Imagine you are in the story setting at night – describe or draw what you can hear, feel and see.
- What other examples of characters can you think of in other books you have read?
- How would it be different if the main character were a girl/boy?

Summarising

- Look at the opening, and give three reasons why it is successful or not.
- What do we know about the main characters at the end of the first chapter?
- What is the problem in this story?
- Who has the problem?
- How are the characters unusual?
- What would you say are the main themes of the book?
- Can you explain how the author makes the characters change over time?
- Is there evidence to show that some of the characters in the book were misunderstood?
- What would you say is the most important idea in the book so far?
- What do you think is the most important image in the text?
- Tell me which part of the text you found the most exciting.
- What surprised you most?
- Compare two characters in the story. How are they similar and how are they different?
- Use a graph to show how a character's feelings change over the course of a story.
- Write a blurb for the book.
- Use a timeline to show what happens in the book.