

How do you read a story? My Strategy Guide

Recommended Kinds of Responses

The recommended responses are examples of kinds of responses students could make.

To increase the challenge and usefulness of the guide as an assessment, students can include examples from a story to show what their strategy means.

First, I preview the story.
This is what I do.

Title—I think about the title. I ask myself, _____

Recommended Response: What does the title tell me about what this story could be about?

Pictures—if it has pictures, I _____

Recommended response: I look to see what it shows about the place (setting) and characters and events.

Then I read the story carefully. Then I revisit the story to figure it out.

The Setting

I look words and sentences that tell about _____

Recommended response: The place—what it's like. When the story takes place.

The Characters' Traits

I infer their traits by thinking about _____

Recommended response: What they do—their actions, and what the narrator explains about them.

The Plot

To analyze the plot I can _____

Recommended response: List the events in sequence and identify the introduction, conflict, and conflict resolution.

Problems

I identify the main problem by thinking about _____

Recommended response: A challenge the central character faces.

Causes

To figure out what caused an event, I infer _____

Recommended response: The reasons it happened.

Effects

To figure out how an event affects the characters, I infer _____

Recommended response: What they say or do before the event and after.

How Characters Feel

To figure out their feelings, I think about _____

Recommended response: What they say and do and what the narrator says about them.

Solution

To figure out the solution I think about _____

Recommended response: What the characters do to solve it.

How a Character Changes

I think about how the character _____

Recommended response: What I know about the character at the beginning of the story and what I know about the character at the end of the story.

Theme

I infer the theme by thinking about _____

Recommended response: The events in the story and what the narrator says about the events.

How the Writer Helps Me Understand the Story

I think about what the writer puts in the story to help me—what words the writer uses to

Recommended response: Words to describe the place, people, and events.

I think about _____

Recommended response: what happens in the story and what the narrator and characters say about the events.

I look for the writer's techniques such as _____

Recommended response: dialogue, character development, conflict, conflict resolution, irony, metaphor, simile, comparisons, images, narrator