

READ A STORY THOUGHTFULLY

I can identify genre, analyze actions, infer meaning, trait, motive, and summarize when I read a story ILS1BC

Teacher notes:

The core questions can be applied to any story, including one-page passages at http://teacher.depaul.edu/Fiction_Readings.htm.

You can use this template as an assessment if students complete it independently.

Then debrief the students—ask them to explain their thinking. For the inferential questions, accept any logical answers that students can support.

Identify an unfamiliar word for students to define for item 5.

If you locate a question that students cannot answer appropriately, use that as a “teachable moment”—for example, think out loud and make a “thinking path”—a step-by-step guide to figuring out how to answer that kind of question.

Exceed and Expand activities are opportunities for students who complete the core questions earlier to think more.

CORE QUESTIONS

1. *Identify genre:* **What is the genre of the passage?** _____

2. *Identify Sequence:* **What happened at the end?**

3. **Name one character in the story.** _____

Infer character trait.

What is one trait you infer that character has? _____

Explain why you think that.

4. *Identify important action:* **What is something important that character does?**

Infer Motive: **Why do you think that character does that?**

5. *Infer meaning from context:* **Your teacher will give you a word to define.**
What does that word mean as used in this passage?

6. **Summarize the passage.**

7. *Infer the main idea:* **What is the main idea or theme of the passage?**

Why do you think that is the main idea or theme?

Exceed: Extended Response

Infer a Lesson

*Explain a **lesson** that people can learn from this story.*

Include examples from the story and your own experience in your response.

Expand: Create

Choose one of these activities to expand the story

- *Make a three-part sequence cartoon—show the three most important parts of the story.*
- *Write another part of the story.*
- *Add dialogue—what characters might have said.*
- *Write your own story that tells a lesson.*