



QUESTIONS THAT UNLOCK STORIES

The questions listed below may be used to unlock the meaning of the books listed on our website. Each of the questions is tied to one of the K-6 English Language Arts Content Standards for California Public Schools. The purpose of these questions is to assist the teacher in planning for the integration of Character Education and Language Arts. Parents are also encouraged to use these questions as they read stories with their children.

Before the Story

- 1. Look at the title and cover illustration. What do you think our story is about?**

(Kindergarten: Word Analysis, Fluency and Systematic Vocabulary Development 1.1 Identify the front cover, back cover, and title page of a book.)

During the Story

1. What do you think will happen next? Why do you think this?

(Kindergarten: Reading Comprehension 2.2 Use pictures and context to make predictions about story content.)

2. What is happening now? Does this event change any of your predictions?

(Grade One: Reading Comprehension 2.2 Respond to who, what, when, where, and how questions.) (Grade Three: Reading Comprehension 2.4 Recall major points in the text and make and modify predictions about forthcoming information.)

3. What is happening that might seem unusual or unexpected?

(Grade Two: Reading Comprehension 2.4 Ask clarifying questions about essential textual elements of exposition (e.g., why, what if, how?))

4. What does the author mean by ?

(Grade Two: Reading Comprehension 2.3 Use knowledge of the author's purpose(s) to comprehend informational text.)

5. Does this story sound like another story we might know?

(Grade Two: Literary Response and Analysis 3.1 Compare and contrast plots, settings, and characters presented by different authors.)

6. Why are the characters in our story acting the way that they do?

(Grade Four: Literary Response and Analysis 3.3 Use knowledge of the situation and setting and of a character's traits and motivations to determine the causes for the character's actions.)

7. How can you compare the actions and motives of the characters in our story?

(Grade Five: Literary Response and Analysis 3.3 Contrast the actions, motives (e.g., loyalty, selfishness, conscientiousness), and appearances of characters in a work of fiction and discuss the importance of the contrasts to the plot or them.)

8. How do the values of the characters in our story influence the events in the book?

(Grade Six: Literary Response and Analysis 3.2 Analyze the effect of the qualities of the character (e.g., courage or cowardice, ambition or laziness) on the plot and the resolution of the conflict.)

After the Story

1. What happened at the beginning of our story? In the middle of our story? At the end of our story?

(Grade One: Literary Response and Analysis 3.1 Identify and describe the elements of plot, setting, and character(s) in a story, as well as the story's beginning, middle, and ending.) (Grade Three: Reading Comprehension 2.6 Extract appropriate and significant information from the text, including problems and solutions.)

2. What was the main problem in our story and how was it solved?

(Grade Five: Literary Response and Analysis 3.2 Identify the main problem or conflict of the plot and how it is resolved.)

3. How would you feel if this happened to you?

(Kindergarten: Reading Comprehension 2.3 Connect to life experiences the information and events in texts.)

4. Did any of our predictions come true?

(Grade Four: Reading Comprehension 2.3 Make and confirm predictions about text by using prior knowledge and ideas presented in the text itself, including illustrations, titles, topic sentences, important words, and foreshadowing clues.)

5. Did the pictures in the story help you to understand the book?

(Grade Five: Reading Comprehension - - Focus on Informational Materials 2.1 Understands how text features (e.g., format, graphics sequence, diagrams, illustrations, charts, maps) make information accessible and usable.)

6. Who is the main character(s) in the story?

(Kindergarten: Literary Response and Analysis 3.3 Identify characters, settings, and important events.)

7. What can we learn from this story?

(Grade Three: Literary Response and Analysis 3.4 Determine the underlying theme or author's message in fiction and nonfiction text.) (Grade Five: Literary Response and Analysis 3.4 Understand that theme refers to the meaning or moral of a selection and recognize themes, whether implied or stated directly, in sample works).

8. What is the most important idea that you want to remember from this story? Can you say your idea in just one word?

(Kindergarten: Reading Comprehension 2.5 Ask and answer questions about essential elements of a text.)

9. **What are the most important ideas in our story? What facts can you select to support your choices of ideas?**

(Grade Five: Reading Comprehension - - Focus on Informational Materials 2.3 Discerns main ideas and concepts presented in texts, identifying and assessing evidence that supports those ideas.)



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