

# Story Structure

Use these prompts to help students understand foundational information.

- What is the title of this text? Who is the author?
- Is this book fiction or nonfiction? How do you know?
- What is the genre of this story? How do you know?
- Who is telling the story?
- Who are the main/secondary characters? Why are they important to the story?
- Could the characters exist in real life?
- Where/when does the story take place? How do you know?
- How does the story begin/end?
- In order, what are the major events in the story?
- What is the problem/conflict in this story? How is it resolved?

# Author's Purpose

Use these to help students understand the story from the author's perspective.

- Why did the author write this story/passage/book?
- Was the author trying to persuade, inform, or entertain you?
- What message did the author want you to get?
- Why did the author choose that setting?
- Was \_\_\_\_\_ a good title for the story? Why or why not?
- What did the author do to help you visualize the story?

# Summarizing Prompts

Use these to help students understand the most important parts of the story.

- What is the main idea/gist of the story?
- Tell me what happened in the story.
- What were the most important parts of the story?
- What was the turning point of the story?
- What do you think the author wants you to know after reading?

# Guided Reading Prompts for Fictional Text



that Help Build Understanding  
During Small Group  
Instruction

## Making Predictions

Before reading, use these prompts help students think about what they are reading before they begin.

- Think about the title/genre/author/pictures/setting. What do you think the story/book will be about? What makes you think that?
- What challenges do you think the characters might face?
- What clues from the text helped you make your prediction?
- What information from your own life helped you make your prediction?
- How do you think the story might end? Why do you think that?
- Were your predictions right? How do you know?
- Do you want to change your prediction now that you have read the story?

## Self-Monitoring Prompts

Use these prompts to help students realize when they are reading incorrectly or not understanding the story.

- Does that word/sentence/paragraph sound right?
- Does that word/sentence/paragraph make sense?
- Look at the picture. Does it fit with what you just read?
- How does what you just read fit with you know?
- What do you need to do to help you understand the text?
- Do you need to go back to reread?
- Do you want to read on to see if it makes sense?
- What would make sense there?
- Why did you stop reading?
- What did you notice? (after student stops or pauses while reading)
- What part of the story confused you?
- Were there parts of the story you didn't understand?
- What are you still wondering?
- What reading strategies did you use to help you understand?

## Making Connections

Use these prompts to help students gain understanding by bridging their own experiences to the text.

- What does this paragraph/story/character remind you of?
- How does what you know about \_\_\_\_\_ (genre) help you understand this story?
- Have you read another story with similar characters/setting/ending?
- How did this story make you feel? What other books/events from your life have made you feel that way?
- What lessons did you learn that you can use in your own life?

## Inferring Prompts

Use these prompts to help students move beyond the text to understand what the author is implying.

- What is the message/lesson of this story?
- What can you figure out that the author didn't put in words?
- What is the mood/tone of the story?
- Why did the author choose that setting?
- How was the setting important to the story?
- Why do you think the character \_\_\_\_\_?
- How did the character feel when \_\_\_\_\_? How did you know that?
- What do the character's actions/choices tell you about him/her?
- When the character said \_\_\_\_\_ what did he/she really mean?

## Asking Questions

Use these prompts to help students think about what they still want to know.

- What questions do you still have?
- What would you like to ask the author/one of the characters?
- What would you like to know more about?
- If you reread the book/story/passage what would you be trying to understand or figure out?