

Categorized Reading Prompts for Upper Grades

Story Elements

- Explore how the main character changed throughout the story.
- Write about something that surprised you or that you found interesting.
- Describe an interesting or important character in your book.
- Write about your favorite part of the book and why it was important to the story.
- Tell your thoughts or feelings about the theme of the story.
- Write a letter to a character in the book or a letter from one character to another.
- Compare two characters in the book to each other by describing their similarities and their differences.
- Describe places where the author gives good descriptions of the characters, setting, problem, or solution.
- Write a diary entry in the voice of a character in your book.
- Compare a character in your book to a character in another book you have read.

Recall

- Summarize the chapter you just read.
- Describe in details the setting of your book and how it fits into the story.
- Draw a picture of the climax of the story. Explain what is happening.
- Describe the book's main character.
- Describe the setting of the story and illustrate it.
- List five facts you learned about the topic covered in the book or article.
- Retell the ending of the story AND write your feelings about it.

Prediction

- How do you think the story will end?
- Which character do you think will change the most by the end? Why?
- Who do you think the antagonist is? Why?
- Based on the title, what do you think the book is about?
- How do you think this conflict will be resolved?
- Draw a picture of what you think will happen next. Describe it.
- Write your predictions about the story and tell whether or not they were right.

Connections

- How is this book similar to another you have read by this author?
- Create a Venn diagram that compares the setting of this story with the area where you live.
- What were your feelings after the first chapter?
- What advice would you give a character in this book? Why?
- What character would you most like to be? Why?
- If you were a character in this book, how would it affect the plot?

- Describe a character's personality trait that you'd like to have. Why do you like this trait?
- Explain how the book reminds you of yourself, people you know, or of something that happened in your life.
- Explain how the book reminds you of other books, especially the characters, events, or setting.
- Describe how this book is like other books by the same author, on the same topic, or in the same genre.
- Do any of the characters remind you of friends, family members, or classmates? Explain.
- How have you changed after reading this book? Explain.
- If you could be related to a character, who would it be and why?

Opinion

- Why do you think the author chose the opening line he or she did? Did you like it? Did it make you want to read further?
- Who is your favorite character? Why? Draw a picture of this character.
- What do you think of the antagonist's actions? Are they right or wrong?
- What do you think is the most important scene in the book? Why?
- How would a different setting affect the story?
- Was the cover design effective? Did it make you want to read the book? Create a new cover design for this book.
- Did you like the ending of the book? How would you have liked it to end? Rewrite a new ending for the book.
- Write a question you would like to ask the author. How do you think he or she would respond?
- Do you agree with the point the author is making? Why?
- Did the graphs and diagrams help you understand the text better?
- Do you like the ending of this book? Why or why not? Do you think there is more to tell?

Language

- Copy a sentence from the book that you think is well written. Why do you like this sentence? Illustrate the sentence.
- Find examples of figurative language in the text. Write them down.
- List five words from the book that you find interesting or unfamiliar. Write their definitions and use them each in a sentence.
- Describe the author's craft: What was good about the author's writing? What things might you try to do in your own writing that you learned from this author?
- Describe how the author makes you feel through their writing.

Evaluation

- Did you enjoy the book? Why or why not?
- Was the book hard or easy to read? Why?

- What didn't you understand in the text?
- Would boys and girls enjoy this book equally? Support your reasons.
- Would you like to read more books by this author? Why or why not?
- Do you think the author chose a good title for the book? Why or why not?
- What did you learn about the time in which the story took place?
- Write about an important lesson that was learned in the story.
- Describe parts of the book that puzzled you or made you ask questions.
- Explain why you think that your book is popular with students in the class (if it is popular with other readers in the class).
- Would you recommend the book to another reader? Explain why or why not.
- Describe what you would change about the book if you could rewrite it.
- Explain what you want to remember about this book and why.
- Make a list of "lingering questions" you have after finishing the book.
- Make a list of things you don't understand, find confusing, or have questions about.

Alternative Responses

- Convince or persuade others to read this book.
- Write a poem about your book.
- Create a slogan for the book and explain why you chose this.
- Illustrate a book cover different from what is on your book.
- Write a solution for a problem a character has that is different from anything suggested in the book.
- Pretend that you are the author and writing a sequel to this book. Explain what should happen.
- Give 3 reasons why this book should be taught to the whole class.
- Create a theme song with lyrics for the book.
- Write a letter to the author of your book.
- Choose a character of the book, decide what would be an appropriate birthday present for that character and explain why.
- Discuss a portion of the book that was too predictable.
- Create an award for this book. Explain the award and why this book received it.
- Make a list of the characters in your book and then create a cast of famous people that you would choose to portray that character if you were making a movie.
- Write a letter to a character in your story.
- Make a comic strip of your story (minimum of 3 frames)
- Make a timeline of the events (minimum 5 events) in this story. You must illustrate each and label each event with a caption or description.
- Make a list of characters in your book. Transform the major characters in your book to animals. Decide upon an animal for each based upon personality traits.
- List 10 interesting words from you book and...(choose one):
 - Tell why each word is interesting.
 - Write a definition for each word.
 - Use each in a sentence of your own.