

BEFORE READING

"What do the parts of the book tell us?" (Structure)

Have you looked to see what is the title and who is the author?

Have you looked at the cover and the pictures?

Have you looked at the date and contents page?

Have you looked at the foreword, introduction, chapter titles, headings, index?

What do they tell you about the book?

What do you think the book is going to be about?

Do they make you want to read the book?

Have you read anything like this before?

"What kind of book is it?" (Type) (Genre)

What kind of writing is this?

How do you know?

Is it fact (real, information), or fiction (made up, imagination), or something in between?

Is it a real life story (biography), science, poem, recipe, news, or other special kind of writing?

Have you read anything like this before?

"How hard is it?" (Difficulty) (Readability)

Is this book too easy for the tutee?

Is this book too hard for the tutor?

Can we do the "five finger test"? (see Tips for Tutors)

Can we read the first page together without difficulty?

"What do you want from the book?" (Reader Aims) (Reader Purpose)

Is this book really interesting to the tutee? Why?

Is it interesting to the tutor? Why?

What do you want or need from this book?

What do you expect from this book?

What do you know already that this book might help with?

Are we **sure** we want to go ahead and read it?

DURING READING

"What does the writer want?" (Author Aims)

Context

What country and place is the book set in?

Is it about times gone past, what is happening now in the present, or the future?

Who are the main characters?

What do you think the main events are?

Do you think the author has really known places and people like them?

If not, what sort of time and place did the author come from?

Audience

What kind of people do you think the author was writing for?

for example: young or old, clever or ordinary, serious or fun-loving,?

Purpose

What do you think the author was trying to do in this book?

Is there a mission or a quest?

Does the book have a theme or moral?

What effect do you think the author was trying to achieve?

What do you think the author wants you to believe?

"What does it mean?" (Meaning) (Literal)

Word Study (Vocabulary & Semantics)

What words does the tutee not understand?

What words do neither of us really understand?

Are there any especially interesting or exciting or effective words?

Can we work it out together?

Or should we look it up in the dictionary, or ask our teacher?

Sentence Study (Syntax & Semantics, Confusions)

What sentences are especially hard to understand?

Can we work out what it means together?

Or should we ask someone to help? Now or later?

Can we think of a better way of saying it?

Gaps (Comprehension Checking, Elaboration)

Was the book hard to read? Why?

Is there something you need to know, which we don't yet know?

Might the author think you know or believe something when you don't?

Are you sure you haven't missed them?

Should we look back to check?

If they are not there, can we imagine them or make them up?

Do the pictures suggest something different or extra to the words?

Is there anything else you would like to know more about?

Does anything mean or imply more than it says on the surface?

"Is it true?" (Truth) (Critical Judgment)

Conflicts & Problems

Did the book make sense all the way through?

Did anything puzzle or surprise you?

Are there ideas or events in the book which just don't fit together? (Conflict & Contradiction)

What did the people in the book **feel** about what was happening?

Are there feelings (or values) which just don't fit? (Conflict & Contradiction)

Are there sudden changes in the book, or surprises? (Constancy and Change)

Does the book have or pose any problems or puzzles?

What is the main one?

Evidence & Credibility

Can you decide what is fact and what is fiction or opinion?

Where is this hardest?

What about the bits which are somewhere in between fact and fiction?

Where is the evidence for what is said to be fact?

How do you know that?

Is there evidence both for and against?

Can you think of any exceptions?

What do you think the author wants you to believe?

Do you believe this?

If so, why? If not, why not?

Solutions

What would your solution to the conflict or problem be?

What would your conclusions or decisions be?

How certain could you be about this? (Probability)

Would this solution or conclusion apply to all people, times and places, or only some?

Which? (Universality vs. Limitation)

"What might happen next?" (Prediction) (Inference & Deduction)

What do the people in the book want or expect to happen next? (Intentionality)

What have you learnt about them which helps you to guess what they might do next? (Characterization)

What do **you** think might happen next? (Prediction)

How likely is this? (Probability, Uncertainty)

What might cause this to happen? (Causality)

One cause or more? (Multiple, Complex, Interdependent Causality)

How would you know what had really caused it? (Evidence)

Might it depend on something else happening? What? (Conditionality)

Will it **only** happen if something else happens?

One thing or more than one? (Multiple, Complex, Interdependent Conditionality)

Might there be a biggest or major cause? (Critical Factor or Incident)

If this doesn't happen, what else might? (Alternatives)

Can you imagine or picture in your head what it would look like? (Visual Imagery)

Did the book end or conclude as you expected?

How else might it have ended?

"What does it remind us of?" (Links) (Association, Comparison, Discrimination, Analogy, Classification)

Link in Text

Does this bit remind us of any bits you have already read?

Why?

Link Back

Does this remind us of anything you already know?

Does this remind you of any feelings you have had before?

Does this remind us of anything you have done in our own life, at school or home or anywhere?

Does this remind you of anything anyone has told you before (children or adults)?

Does this remind you of anything in another book, on TV or in a film, or anywhere else?

Does this remind you of anything else?

Can you think of any other examples of this kind of thing?

How is what we are reading now similar to these other things?

How is it different?

Link Forward

In the future, how might this apply to or be useful in your own life (home, school, or anywhere)?

AFTER READING

"What are the main ideas?" (Summarize)

Find Main Ideas (Focus, Prioritize)

Who?, Do?, What?, Where?, Why?, To?, How?, With?, Then?

What were the most important points to you?

What were some key words?

Do we need to read any bits again?

Clarify Main Ideas (Reformulation, Reconstruction)

Can you say the most important points of the book more clearly?

Sequence Main Ideas (Reformulation, Reconstruction)

Do we have the most important points in the best order?

Can we make a map or chart of the main ideas to help us?

Re-Tell Main Ideas (Communicate)

Can we tell another pair the most important points?

Or should we write it down for the whole class?

Should we read our writing to each other before we give it to anybody else?

Quiz on Main Ideas (Interrogate)

Can we think up some questions about the most important points to make a quiz for other pairs?

Can we write it down for the whole class?

Should we read it to each other before we give it to anybody else?

"How do you feel about it?" (Evaluate)

Analysis

Was it any good? What bits did we like best? What bits did we not like at all?

Was it important? What bits made us think the hardest?

What bits did we feel most strongly about?

How could the author improve the book? How would **you** improve it?

How far apart were what WE wanted and what the AUTHOR wanted?

Did the book turn out to be a good choice for us in the end?

If not, what should we be more careful about next time?

Response (Application, Generalization, Maintenance)

What bits seemed most useful or exciting?

What are we likely to remember best?

What might we DO with what we have learned?

Recommendation

Would we tell others in our class to read this?

Would it be good for any other sort of people?

Would we look for other books of this kind or by this author?

Self-Assessment

How well did we read and think together on this book?

How could we do better on another book?

"What did you remember about it?" (Revisit) (Recall, Reflect)

Thinking back to this book, what DID we remember?

What do we think and feel about it now?

What use has it been, so far?

"Have you questioned anything else?" (Extend) (Application, Generalization, Maintenance)

Have we thought about the Paired Thinking Questions when reading any other books?

In school or out of school? On books read with someone or on your own?

On books read with a better reader, or someone as good as you are?