

Focus Questions to Ask Before Reading

Pre-reading Goal	Sample Questions for Narrative Texts	Sample Questions for Informational Texts
Access prior knowledge	What story does the cover tell? Have you read another story of the same kind? What was it about?	What do you already know about this topic? How did you learn it? Does the topic of this text remind you of something you have previously heard or seen?
Interact with the text before reading	Does this story remind you of something you have previously seen or heard? Do the words and pictures on the cover make you want to read this book? If so, how?	What subject does the picture or illustration on the cover or in the text make you think about? What do you expect the author to explain or tell you about?
Make inferences	What do you think will be the main idea of this story? What do you think will be the main challenge faced by the characters?	What do you think will be the main topic of this text? Do you think you will find this text interesting? Explain why.
Draw comparisons	In what ways does the main character remind you of someone you have met or heard about? In what ways do you think this story will be similar to or different from other stories you have read or heard about?	What do you hope the author will tell you that you don't already know? In what ways do you think this information will be similar to or different from your own experience with this subject?
Make predictions	What do the pictures or illustrations on the cover suggest about the content of this book? From the information on the back and front covers, what can you tell about the main characters in the book?	What does the table of contents suggest that the author is going to explain about the topic? When you look at the title, what words do you predict will be used in this book?
Identify difficult words	On the first page, are there any words that are new to you? Can you guess the meaning of new words on the front or back cover?	In the table of contents or subheads in the text, are there any words that are new to you? As you skim, can you guess the meaning of one word that is new to you?
Construct meaning	What does the title tell you about the story? What do you think the characters in this story will learn about themselves and about others?	How do the pictures and words on the cover work together to make meaning? How might you use the information in this book?

Questions to Ask During Reading

Reading Goals	Narrative Texts	Informational Texts
Make predictions	What do you think is going to happen next? What clues does the author give you about what is going to happen next?	How could this information be used? What might be the next section or sub-heading in this article?
Check for understanding	What has happened so far in the story? What do you think this word means?	In your own words, explain the author's main idea. If you could ask the author a question about this topic, what would it be?
Monitor meaning	What do you think the character means when he/she says " _____ "? What is another word the character might have used in this sentence?	Why did the author include _____ in the article? How do you know this is non-fiction?
Clarify confusion	What did you find confusing in the last paragraph? What words are new to you?	What words did you find confusing? What ideas do you wish the author had explained more clearly?
Make personal connections	What went through your mind when ...? How did you feel when the character ...?	What new thing have you learned so far in this selection? How does this information connect to your life or what you know already?
Visualize what is being read	What did you see in your imagination when you were reading this part of the story?	What are you seeing in your mind as you read this? How could the information in this article be used to make a picture or graphic?

Focus Questions to Ask After Reading

Reading Goals	Narrative Texts	Informational Texts
Clarify meaning and check for understanding	<p>What are three important characteristics of ... [one of the characters]?</p> <p>What part of the story do you still find a little confusing?</p>	<p>What did you think was the most difficult part of this selection?</p> <p>What could the author have done to make it easier to understand?</p>
Summarize	<p>In one sentence, summarize the story.</p> <p>In your own words, retell the main events in this story.</p>	<p>In one sentence, state the author's main idea.</p> <p>Retell some of the information the author gave to support his/her point of view.</p>
Draw causal connections	<p>What makes this selection a story?</p> <p>Why did ... do ...?</p> <p>Why did ... say ...?</p> <p>What could ... have done differently? How would that have changed the ending of the story?</p>	<p>What makes this selection non-fiction?</p> <p>What does the author want the reader to do as a result of reading this?</p> <p>Would you do it? How?</p>
Make personal connections	<p>What was your favorite part of the story? Why?</p> <p>What did this story remind you of?</p>	<p>What is one idea with which you agree? Why?</p> <p>What is the most surprising piece of information you learned from this text? Why?</p>
Draw conclusions and think critically	<p>From whose perspective have we heard the story? How would the story change if a different character were telling the story?</p>	<p>What perspective or information has been left out of this article? Why do you think it was excluded?</p> <p>Why did the author end the selection this way?</p>