

Independent Reading

Response Questions

Personal and Textual Connections:

1. Do any of the characters remind you of someone in your life? Who and how?
2. How are the characters, setting, and problems like those in other stories you have read?
3. Were you reminded of anything in your own life while reading this story? What and how?
4. What does this story make you think or wonder about?

Setting:

5. In another time or place, how would the story change? Where else could the story take place?
6. Is the place important to the story? How?
7. What words did the author use to describe the place? What can you hear, see, feel or smell as you read?
8. How is the setting like another place you know?

Characters

9. Which character taught you the most? What did s/he teach you and how?
10. What choices did the character have? What choice did they make? Why?
11. How does the author/illustrator reveal the character? (Look at what the character does, thinks, or says and/or what others say *about* the character.)
12. Which characters change and which don't? How is character change important in the story?
13. How did characters feel about one another? Why?
14. What did you learn from one character in the story? How did you learn it?
15. Which character is the protagonist? What does s/he want?
16. Which character is the antagonist? What does s/he want?
17. What is the relationship between the protagonist and the antagonist in this story?

Plot:

18. What is the conflict? How do you think it will be solved?
19. What lesson does this story teach about life? How does it teach it?
20. What do you think will happen next in the story and why do you think this will happen?
21. Do you think the story really could have happened? Why or why not?

22. Do you have any unanswered questions about the story? What are they and why are you curious about them?
23. What is the inciting force in this story? Why do you think this is the inciting force?
24. What is the climax of the story? Why do you think this is the climax?
25. How is the story resolved? Do you feel this was the best way to resolve it? Why or why not?

Theme:

26. What is the story really about? How do you know?
27. Do you think the title is appropriate for the story? Why or why not?
28. What does the story mean to you? Why?
29. Why did the author write this story? Why do you think this?

Point of View:

30. Who tells the story? Is this the best person to tell it? Why or why not?
31. What other voices could tell the story?
32. How would the story be different if told through another character's eyes?

Language:

33. Did the author use language to create a feeling or picture in your mind? What words did the author use and how did s/he create this picture in your mind?
34. Where did the author describe something well? Why do you think so?

Author

35. Did the author keep you interested? How or why?
36. Why do you think the author began or ended the story in this way?
37. What do you notice about the writing - the way the author wrote?

Genre:

38. How is this book like other books you've read in this genre?
39. How does this book differ from other books you've read in this genre?