



Flat River Middle
School
1675 Flat River Road

Self-Selected Reading Toolkit



Adapted with permission
from Connie Prevatte

Self Selected Reading is designed for students to choose books at their independent reading level. The questions in this toolkit are designed to conduct instruction and assessment during individual conferencing with students.

The conference time is approximately 5 minutes per student and is conducted during the 30 minutes of SSR. Teachers use the cards by choosing questions to elicit from students their level of comprehension as they read. Teachers would select from the various questions the appropriate question (or type of question) that might assess the student's ability to understand the text.

Questions developed have been formulated using content language, the RI GLE's, and Connie Prevatte cards.

Type of Genre

Fiction

Realistic Fiction
Historical Fiction
Science Fiction
Fable

Fantasy
Folk Tale
Myth
Legend

Non-Fiction

Autobiography
Biography
Informational

Poetry

Characters

- Who are the main characters in the story? Do you like or dislike them? Why?
- Choose one character. Why is this character important to the story?
- Describe the actions of a character. What can you infer about the character from these actions?
- Do any of the characters change? How? What event(s) impacted this change?
- Do any of the characters do things that are good?...funny?...wrong?...
- Describe any similarities between this character and (yourself, other characters you have read about.)
- How could an experience in the story help the character in the future?

Plot

Summarize the main events that have happened (thus far) in your story.

Explain the importance of beginning/
Event/ decision.

- Were you able to predict what was going to happen next? Why?
- Predict the next event.
- Can you think of another way your story might have happened?

Setting

- Where does the story take place? Describe the... (physical elements and the human characteristics) of the setting.
- Describe what the place was like?
- Explain the importance of the setting to the plot/ mood/ tone?
- Describe the closest place that you know of that is like this place.
- Did the story take place a long time ago/ in the future/ now?

Conflict

- Who has a problem? What is the problem?
- Is there one problem or more? Describe...
- Predict how the problem is going to be resolved. What evidence in the text helps you to form this prediction?
- Which type of conflict is in your book?
(Man vs. Man, Man vs. Himself, Man vs. Nature)

Point of View

- Who is telling the story? How can you tell?
- Which point of view is used?
- Based upon the narrator that tells the story what do you know about how he/ she feels? Find evidence in the text to support your assertion/ claim/ opinion.
- Do you agree with the point of view? Why or why not?

Point of View *(adopted from Great Source)*

The narrator of a story can be in 1st person or 3rd person. It is the position from which an author presents a story.

1st person: The story is told by one of the characters. (*I or we* signal 1st person narration.) The reader is limited to knowing only what this character sees, thinks or feels.

3rd person: is told by a narrator who is not a character. (*He, she, they* signal 3rd person narration.) When the narrator relates thoughts and feelings of *all* characters it is called omniscient narrator. When the narrator relates thoughts, feelings of one character (usually protagonist) it is called limited omniscient narrator.

Connections/ Mood

- How did you feel while reading this book?
Why did you feel this way?
- Describe the funniest/ saddest/ most exciting/ strangest/ etc. part.
- What words did the author use to create the mood of this story?
- Does this story remind you something that happened in your life...another story....movie...etc? (FS, FT, FW)

Author

- Based upon this book, what do you know about the author? What evidence from the text helped you to form your opinion?
- What is the author's message?
- What did the author have to learn/ research (or know about) in order to write this book?
- What sorts of things does the author like or dislike? What words in the text led you to believe this?

Style

What special words does the author use to help you hear/ see the story?

Are there any other words that appeal to your senses (taste, touch, smell)? Find textual evidence of the exact words.

Tell me about any pictures (images) the author has left in your mind. Cite the text.

Describe the tone/ mood of the story. What in the text supports your assertion/ claim/ position?

What do you like about the way the author has written the story?

Theme

- Explain the author's purpose in writing this text. (Why do you think the author wrote this book, article?)
- Explain the author's message/ theme in this text. What evidence from the text supports your assertion/ claim/ opinion?
- What do you think the character(s) learned? What evidence from the texts supports your assertion/ claim/ opinion.

Illustration

- Who is the illustrator?
- Do you like the illustrations? Why or why not?
- If the illustrations were not there, would there need to be words? Why?
- What did the illustrations add to the text?
- What do you think the illustrator needed to know in order to illustrate this book?

Wordless Picture Book

- Who is the illustrator?
- Do you like the illustrations? Why or why not?
- Why do you think this book was written with no (or few) words?
- What do you think the illustrator needed to know in order to illustrate this book?

Text Features

- Which text features did you use to preview the selection before reading?
- How was your text organized?
- Which text feature(s) helped you to better understand the text/ book? Find the feature and explain in detail how this particular feature assisted your understanding.

Expository Initial Understanding

- What did you enjoy learning about the most? Why?
- What was the main/ central idea? What were the key details related to this idea?
- Would you like to read more books about this topic?
- What pictures or illustrations did you find most interesting?
- What kind of research do you think the author did to write the text?
 - What questions would you ask the author?

Expository Analysis

What was the author's purpose in writing this book? Cite evidence in the text to support your assertion/ opinion/ claim.

- What other purpose might an author have for writing about this topic? How would the text have changed based upon that purpose?
- Do you agree with the author's stance? Why or why not?
- Was there evidence of bias or propaganda in the text? Describe... Find the text...