

Reading diary questions

After reading your book, write a response in your reading diary using one or more of the questions below.

Read it! (Reading aloud, decoding the text)

- Were there any tricky words? How did you work out what they meant?
- Did any of the punctuation help you know how to read it?

Understand it! (Understanding and retrieving information)

- Can you retell the opening?
- Who is the main character and what do you know about them?
- Summarise the part of the book that you have just read in five sentences.
- Pick out five key facts from the book that you have read.

Find the clues! (Reading between the lines and making deductions)

- What did you learn about the main character's feelings in the part of the book you have just read? How did you work this out?
- Write a thought bubble for a character at one key point in the story.
- What would it be like to live where the story is set?
- Can you predict what might happen next? What clues have there been?

Look at the structure (Comment on layout, organisation, presentation)

- Reread the opening paragraph. How does the writer set the scene?
- What are the key events in the story? Draw a timeline for the story.
- Was there anything special about the way the text was laid out? How did it add to the overall effect? Did it make the information more appealing or easy to read?
- Look at one of the illustrations or the cover image. Could you add captions or labels?

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After reading your book, write a response in your reading diary using one or more of the questions below.

Explore the words (Comment on language, word choice, expression)

- Find a word that really stands out to you. Why is it a good word to use? Can you suggest any alternatives?
- Find a description that helps to convey a picture or idea to you. Draw your impression of it and write down which words or phrases help to create this.
- Can you find any interesting similes or metaphors? Why are they effective?
- Were there any technical or special words used by the author? Can you explain what they mean? Why did the author use them?

Purpose and viewpoints (Why the author wrote it and your viewpoint)

- Why do you think the author chose to write about this topic?
- Does the author make you feel a particular way? How?
- If you could interview the author about this topic, what would you ask them, based on what you have read?
- Are any parts of the text persuasive? How do you know?
- Did you enjoy reading this book? Why/Why not?

Where does it fit in? (Where and when it was written, what kind of book it is and why it is like that)

- Is the text written in another time or place? How do you know? How does this affect it?
- Does the text remind you of anything that you have read before?
- Can you describe how it is similar or different to anything else you have read?
- Does it have any features that link it to a particular text type, for example a myth or legend?