

Independent Activities for Guided Reading Sessions

Early readers

- ☺ Re-read shared/familiar texts from a previous session, including rhymes and poems, individually or with a partner.
- ☺ Cut up sentences from the text for the children to recreate.
- ☺ Respond to the text through drawing a picture of a certain aspect, e.g. new cover, favourite character.
- ☺ Re-enact part of the story with puppets or through role play.
- ☺ Listen to taped stories.
- ☺ Sequencing activities: pictures, sentences, key events.
- ☺ Provide a picture(s) from a key moment in the text with empty speech bubbles for the children to complete.
- ☺ Make a story board of the key events.
- ☺ Read more stories by the same author.
- ☺ Match pictures to the text.
- ☺ Complete a simple book review. (Teacher can provide sentence starters, a writing frame or smiley faces to rate the book.)
- ☺ Cloze activities – missing high frequency words, verbs, nouns, rhyming words.
- ☺ Matching games – word matching, letter matching.
- ☺ Phonic activities/games.
- ☺ High frequency word snap/lotto.
- ☺ Read the story onto a tape.
- ☺ Make a zig-zag book of the text.

Fluent readers

- ☺ Keep a reading journal – see activity sheets for ideas.
- ☺ Re-read or continue to read the text started with the teacher.
- ☺ On a copy of the text use highlighter pens to identify evidence for a specific aspect e.g. a character's feelings.
- ☺ Research something for a topic by using the internet, computer or reference books.
- ☺ Read other books about the same topic or by the same author.
- ☺ Use a picture from the book to add thought/speech bubbles.
- ☺ Re-write a section from the text as a comic.
- ☺ Re-write a section of the text from a different character's point of view.
- ☺ Comprehension task about the text, to include all the QCA assessment areas. Children could write their own questions to ask each other.
- ☺ KWL grid for non-fiction books. *What I know, what I want to know, what I learnt.*
- ☺ Group debate about a key issue from the text.
- ☺ Drama activity e.g. hot seating, role play.
- ☺ Read a story onto a tape for a younger reader.

Reading Journal Activities - Fiction

1. Speculate on a character's actions or motives e.g. Why did . . . ? What would have happened if . . . ?

2. Write a list of 5 questions you would like to ask a character for a TV interview / newspaper report.

3. Make a 5 point scale of emotions – mildly irritated to exceedingly angry. Children rate events in the story on their scale.

4. Draw a cartoon strip to identify 3 – 5 key events in the story.

5. Rank characters according to specific criteria e.g. most to least powerful, kindest to meanest.

6. What would you have done at a certain key point? Justify your actions.

7. Choose the funniest / scariest moment from the book. Justify your choice.

8. If you have read more than one book from the same author, discuss any similarities and differences you found.

9. Make a word bank of words you do not know. Find their definitions.

10. Make a list of exciting words and try to use 3 of them in your next piece of creative writing.



REMEMBER! Write the date, book title and number or letter of the task with each entry in your reading journal.

Reading Journal Activities - Non-Fiction

A. Choose the most and the least interesting facts from the book. Justify your choice.

B. What do the illustrations tell you that the text does not?

C. On a copy of the text, highlight the evidence about the topic you are investigating.

E. Draw a flow chart or grid to show some of the information you have found.

D. Identify 3 new words in the glossary and compare the meaning with the dictionary.

F. Write a short review of the book. What did you like/dislike?

G. Design a poster to advertise the book to persuade people to buy it.

H. Make a list of the words you don't know. Find and record their definition.

I. Make a list of 5 things you would like to find out in the book.

J. Make notes to give a presentation to the class about the book.

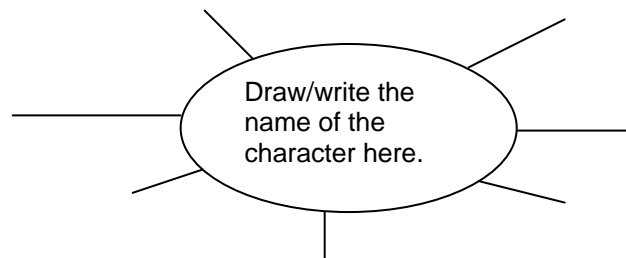


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More Reading Journal Activities - Fiction



- a) Make a spidergram of words to describe your favourite character from the book.



- b) Choose a character in the book that you do not like. Write a paragraph to explain why.
- c) Choose a character in the book that you like. Justify your decision.
- d) Write a short review of the book. Include information about what you liked or disliked. Who would you recommend it too?
- e) Create a "wanted" poster for the villain in the book.
- f) Write a postcard/letter from a character in the book.
- g) Write a defence for the villain in the book. Can you justify their actions?
- h) Create a map of a journey in the story.
- i) Draw a picture of yourself in the story you are reading.
- j) Read part of your book to a friend, putting in expression and make it as interesting as you can. Ask them to write how well you did in your reading log. 'I would give you a star for' 'I wish you could have read better.'
- k) Write a summary of the book in 50 words.
- l) Make a list of similes to show how a character is feeling. If you have time, make it into a poem.