

Reading for Meaning



The following pages give examples of the type of questions you can ask your children when reading, to help them become more active readers.

Holly Lodge Primary School





Who?

Who are the main characters?

When?



When does the story take place?

About the Story

What?

What happened at the beginning/middle/end?

What do the characters look like?

What kind of people are the characters?

AF2



Where?

Where is the story set?



Who?

Who is the storyteller?

Who would you most like to meet in the story and why?

Infer

Deduce

How?



How does the character feel at the beginning/middle/end?

How can you tell?



Dickens

What?

What is your favourite part of the story and why?

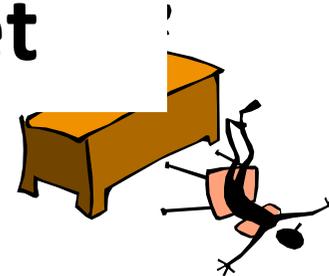
What questions would you like to ask the author?

What questions would you like to ask each of the characters?

What do you think will happen next and why?

AF3

Interpret



Why?

Why did the main character act the way he did?

Why does the character feel the way he/she does?

Why would you/wouldn't you like to visit this place?



What?

What is the main event in the story?

What variety of sentence structures has the author used and why?

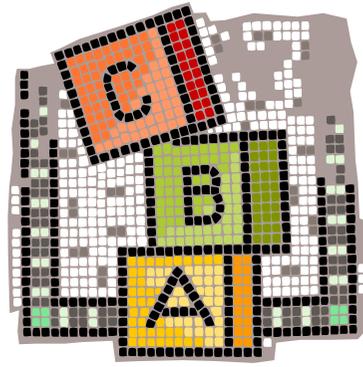
Why?

Why do you think the author sometimes uses short sentences?

Has the author used an unusual layout?
Why do you think he/she did this?

Why has the author used **bold** or *italic*?

AF4



How?

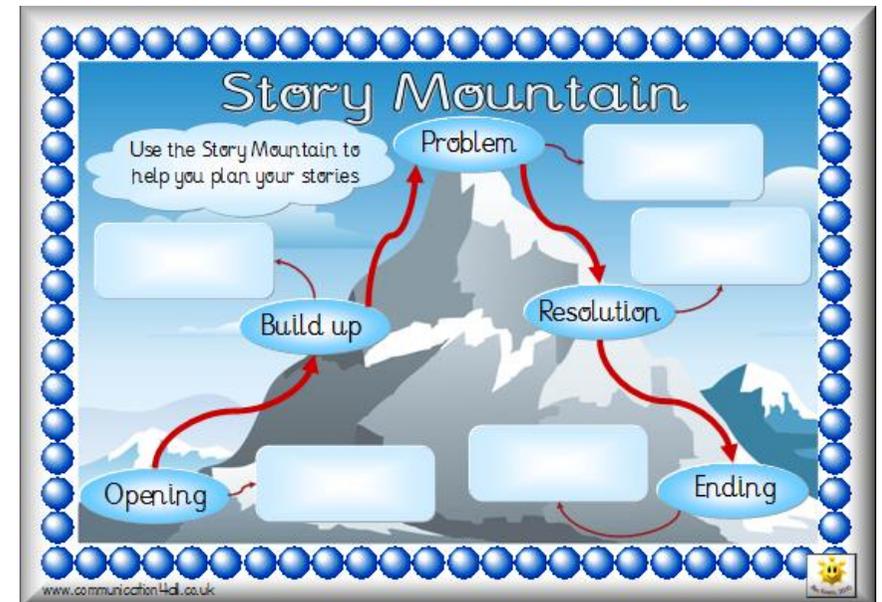


Structure and Organisation

How surprised were you by the ending? Is it what you expected?

How do you think the story should have ended?

How has the text been organised?



What?

What examples can you find of effective description?
What makes them effective?

What examples can you find of:

Powerful verbs (e.g. *trudged/hurled*)

Powerful adjectives (e.g. *hazy/furious*)

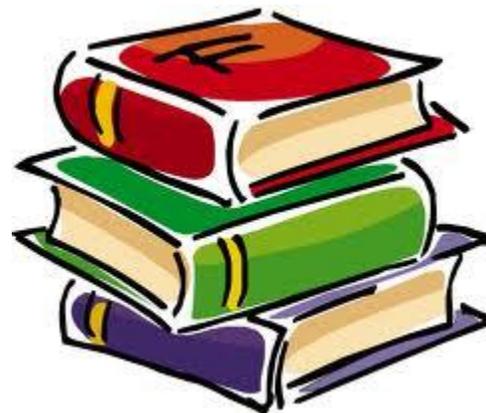
Adverbs (e.g. *cautiously/calmly*)

What do these words tell you about a character, their actions or the setting?

Which of these words could you collect to use in your own writing?



Language



How?

How could you find out the meaning of an unknown word?

Try reading the sentence before and after. Can you work out the meaning now?

Why?

Why did the author choose this title?

What?

What other story do you know that has a similar theme? (E.g. *good/evil; wisdom over foolishness*).

What makes this a successful story?
What evidence do you have to justify your opinion?

What was the most exciting part of the story? Explain as fully as you can.

What genre is this story? How do you know?

What was the least exciting part of the story? Explain.

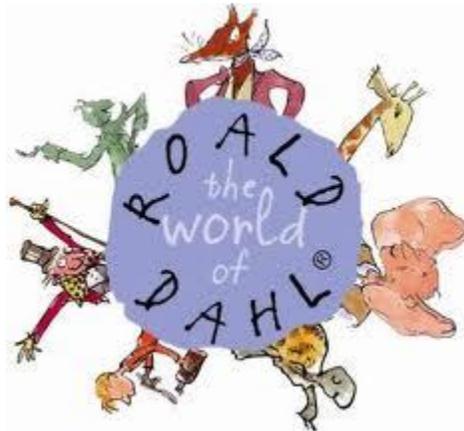
Why does the writer use short sentences?
Why does the writer use complex sentences?

AF6



Writer's

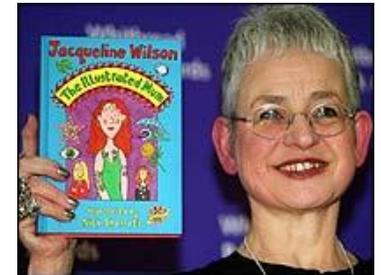
Purpose



How?

How could the story be improved or changed for the better?

How did the author succeed in making you feel a certain way about a character? Did those feelings change throughout the book?



Why?

Why did the author choose this setting?

What?



What other story do you know that deals with the same issues (e.g. social, cultural, moral)?

Have you ever been in a similar situation to the character in the book? What happened?

What would you have done differently?

What message is the author trying to give the reader?



Context

History

Culture

Tradition

Social

How?

How would you have felt in the same situation?

How would you feel if you were treated in the same way as one of the characters?

How does the story remind you of people and places you know?



Why?

Why did the author choose this setting?

