

Comprehension Questions for Fictional Stories

FICTION

Background Information

The term fiction is used to describe works of the imagination. Fictional works—novels, pictures, stories, fairy tales, fables, comics, films—may be partly based on factual occurrences but always contain some imaginary content.

Questions for Fiction

The following questions can be used with any fictional story. Choose the questions that fit the level of your students and the level of the story being read. Students are to provide reasons for their answers to the yes/no questions.

Setting

1. Where did the story take place?
2. Could it have taken place somewhere, anywhere else?
3. Does the setting play a major role in the story?
4. Are you able to see the place the story occurs in your mind? Explain.
5. How do the characters use the environment?
6. When does the story take place?
7. Did it happen before you were born?
8. Could this story really happen?
9. Could it happen to you? Explain.
10. Is there a unity of time and place, or does the story change from time to time or place to place?

Characters

1. Who is the main character?
2. Is the main character believable?
3. Is the main character simple or complex?
4. How is the main character consistent in the story?
5. Who were the other characters in the story?
6. Which characters do you like best and why?
7. Would you like to have this character for a friend? Explain.
8. Have you ever done the same thing as this character?
9. How is a character in the story made to seem good or bad, likable or unlikable, interesting or dull?
10. Can you make a list of the good and bad points of a main character?

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Plot

1. What would you change about the beginning of the story?
2. How well are the events in the story tied together?
3. Is the story believable?
4. Are the events in the story important?
5. Do you feel involved or excited in the actions of the story?
6. Name a problem or conflict in the story.
7. What was the author's solution to the conflict/problem?>
8. How would you can the ending of the story?

Theme or Moral

1. Does the title state or reflect the theme?
2. What are you going to remember about this book?
3. What is the purpose of the story?
4. Does the story teach a moral? What is it?
5. Do you agree with the author's ideas?
6. Have you read another book with the same main idea? What is the title?
7. What things does the reader have to know to understand the story?
8. What device does the author use to deliver the message?