

PLOT

-  What are the most important events in what you read? How are they connected to previous events?
-  What are some of the conflicts a character is having?
-  What caused the conflict? Explain how it is connected to character actions or important events.
-  Was the conflict resolved? How? If not, how might it be resolved?
-  If you were one of the characters, how would you have tried to resolve the conflict?
-  How did the characters advance the plot?

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SETTING

-  Describe the setting (time, place, season, weather, etc.)? Why is the setting important?
-  Describe the setting using your senses. What do you hear? Smell? See? Touch?
-  How would the story change if it happened in a different place or time?
-  How would you compare and contrast the time period and location of the selection with the time period and location where you live?
-  How does the setting affect the plot?

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CHARACTERS #1

-  From what you read, what do you know about the characters?
-  What inferences are you making about a character?
-  Do any of the characters change? How? What causes them to change?
-  Choose a surprising dialogue or action. What motivated the character to say or do that?
-  Choose one character. Why is this character important in what you just read? Explain your thinking.
-  Which secondary characters are important? Why?

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CHARACTERS #2

Choose a character to discuss. Share evidence from what you just read.

-  What is the character's greatest weakness?
-  Where does the character get his/her inner strength?
-  Were the character's actions justified? Why or why not?
-  How would the situation of the character be different if he/she lived with your family or had you as a friend?
-  What does the character *really* want? Why?
-  How does the culture impact the character?
-  Predict the character's life five years from now. Explain your reasoning.

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MOOD

-  How does this passage make you feel? Have your feelings changed? How and why?
-  Describe the mood in this selection. What did the author do to communicate the mood?
-  Think about the selection you just read. What was the funniest part? Saddest part? Most exciting part? Strangest part? Favorite part? Describe the event.
-  Select a portion of text to read aloud. Read it to communicate the mood.

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Theme

Discuss emerging themes. Share evidence from what you just read.

-  What are the key ideas in this selection?
-  What does the author want us to understand about the key idea(s)?
-  What did the character(s) learn?
-  Is there an important social issue emerging in the text? What are you learning about the issue?
-  What does the theme(s) teach us about life and the world?
-  What other texts have you read that have a similar theme? Explain the connections.

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Symbolism

Discuss symbolism. Share evidence from what you just read.

-  Identify a reoccurring symbol in the text. What do you think it represents?
-  Why do you think the author chose to use that symbol?
-  How does the symbol influence the character(s)?
-  Are places used symbolically? What values seem associated with a particular place?
-  Create a C S I diagram. Choose a Color (C) that identifies the mood. Create (or find) a symbol (S) that captures the essence of the selection. Sketch an image (I) that illustrates the central message.

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ILLUSTRATOR

-  What was your favorite illustration? Why?
-  How did the illustrations add to the understanding of what you just read?
-  What did the illustrator need to know in order to illustrate the book?
-  How do the illustrations (including the cover) communicate the mood?
-  Draw a picture for this selection. Be prepared to explain your picture.

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Author's Craft

-  Does the author write anything in a unique way? Why do you think he/she does this?
-  Share a passage you found surprising, controversial, confusing, thought-provoking, funny, or well-written.
-  How does the narrator's point of view influence how events are described?
-  What types of literary elements does the author use (flashback, foreshadowing, etc.)? How do the literary elements impact the overall story?
-  Explain how chapters, scenes, or paragraphs provide the overall structure of the text. (chronological, descriptive, problem/solution, compare/contrast, cause/effect).

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Vocabulary

Select a challenging word from what you just read.

-  What does the word mean? Explain the strategies you could use to determine the meaning.
 - Use context clues.
 - Visualize the sentence.
 - Use parts of the word (prefix, root, suffix).
 - Make a connection.
 - Substitute a word that makes sense.
 - Look it up.
-  Why do you think the author used this word?

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Figurative Language

Select an interesting example of figurative language.

-  Why did you select this example?
-  What type of figurative language is it? (Simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, imagery, onomatopoeia, idiom, pun)
-  What do you think the figurative language means?
-  How does the figurative language help you visualize character, setting or event?

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