

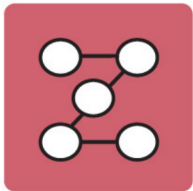
Depth and Complexity

ELA Literature





Patterns



1. Describe the plot pattern that you have noticed in this reading. How is it the same as or different than plot patterns that you have observed in other stories?
2. How does the conflict of the reading selection compare to the conflict from another story or piece of text?
3. How does the author reveal the protagonist and/or antagonist within the reading selection?
4. How do the characters within the reading selections relate to and/or interact with each other?
5. Based on what you have read so far, what series of events do you anticipate for the future?
6. Discuss the significance of a repeated symbol/element throughout the book. What deeper meanings or insights does it offer?
7. What patterns do you notice in the author's use of language or imagery? How do these patterns enhance the narrative or mood?
8. Explore the development of a character through recurring actions or decisions. What pattern emerges, and what does it reveal about the character?
9. Identify a pattern in the way settings are described or used. How does this contribute to the atmosphere or themes of the book?
10. What patterns can you detect in the narrative's pacing or tension? How do these patterns affect the story's progression or suspense?



Big Idea



1. What is the most important implicit (indirectly stated) and explicit (directly stated) information?
2. What would be a good title for this section of the text? Explain your answer.
3. What is the central theme or "Big Idea" of the book you're reading, and how is it developed throughout the story?
4. How do the characters' experiences and choices reflect the "Big Idea" of the narrative?
5. Discuss how the setting or time period contributes to the overall theme or message of the book.
6. How does the author use symbolism or motifs to reinforce the book's central theme?
7. Explore how the narrative's point of view influences the presentation and perception of the "Big Idea."
8. Consider the title of the book. How does it reflect the underlying theme or message?
9. How does the author employ irony, satire, or humor to develop or critique the central theme?
10. Reflect on a significant turning point in the story. How does it underscore the book's "Big Idea"?





Details



1. Find a passage where the author does an effective job describing a character. What did you learn about the character from this passage?
2. Provide an example of how the author uses word connotation (ex. Scent vs. Odor) to communicate a tone or mood.
3. What details do you think should have been included? Explain your reasoning.
4. What details do you think should have been omitted? Explain your reasoning.
5. How does a piece of dialogue crucially reveal a character's motivation or the story's theme? Provide an example.
6. Reflect on a minor character's role. How do specific details about this character contribute to the larger narrative or themes?
7. Consider the narrative's structure. How do specific transitions, flashbacks, or pacing details influence the story's impact?
8. Explore the importance of a specific scene or event. How do the details in this moment advance the plot or develop the theme?
9. How does the author use sensory details to bring scenes to life or evoke a particular response from the reader?
10. Discuss the role of specific literary devices (such as metaphor, simile, or alliteration) in a passage. How do they enhance the text?



Across Disciplines



1. What elements of this reading selection might change if it were written in another genre?
2. What might a disciplinarian (mathematician, scientist, historian, etc.) have to say about the reading selection? Use textual evidence to support your answer.
3. What connections can you make to this reading to another story or text?
4. How does the historical context of the book you're reading connect to what you've learned in social studies or history class?
5. Explore the scientific or technological themes in the story. How do they relate to current topics in science or ethical debates in society?
6. Discuss the portrayal of mathematical concepts or theories within the narrative. How does this intersection enrich your understanding of both disciplines?
7. Identify psychological theories or concepts that can be applied to understand characters' behaviors or motivations. How do these insights bridge literature and psychology?
8. How does the book incorporate elements of art or music to enhance its themes or characters' experiences? Discuss the interdisciplinary impact.
9. Consider the economic or political systems described in the story. How do they reflect or contrast with real-world systems you've studied in economics or political science?
10. How does the book depict economic systems, class structures, or the impacts of poverty and wealth? Relate these portrayals to economic theories or social justice issues you've studied.





Trends



1. Is the reading set in a particular time period? What clues from the text indicate the era?
2. How does this reading connect or relate to a current event?
3. How could the characters, setting, or conflict of this reading selection be updated to fit the present or future?
4. How might this reading selection influence your classmates and/or peers?
5. How does the book reflect or respond to a significant societal or cultural trend of its time? Discuss its relevance and impact.
6. Consider the book's themes related to environmental or ecological concerns. How do these themes connect to current trends in environmental awareness and activism?
7. Identify a theme in the book that resonates with contemporary issues. How does this connection enhance your understanding of both the literature and the issue?
8. Explore the relationship dynamics in the book. How do they reflect changing societal norms or values you've noticed in your own life or community?
9. How does the book address themes of identity or self-discovery? Relate these themes to your own experiences or observations.
10. Explore how the narrative deals with themes of resilience or adversity. How do these themes resonate with challenges you or society have faced?



Ethics



1. What is a dilemma that a character or characters face in this reading selection? How do they work to resolve the dilemma?
2. What stereotypes, prejudices, and/or biases are present?
3. What social norm or rule was broken?
4. What ethical issue is presented within this reading selection? Defend both sides of the argument?
5. What part of this reading might be considered controversial, in either the present or the past?
6. Identify an ethical dilemma faced by a character in the book. How would you have responded in a similar situation?
7. Explore the theme of justice in the story. How do the characters' perspectives on justice align with or differ from your own?
8. Analyze the portrayal of loyalty and betrayal. What ethical questions do these themes raise, and how are they resolved?
9. How does the book address the impact of individual actions on the community or society? Reflect on a specific example from the text.
10. Consider the role of empathy in the narrative. How does the author use empathy to address ethical considerations?



Over Time



1. What changes did you notice within a character in this section of reading? Support your answer with evidence from the text.
2. How did the setting (location, time, weather) of the reading selection change? What effect does this have on the story?
3. How have your opinions and/or feelings change while reading this selection? Provide a specific example.
4. How does the main character change from the beginning to where you are now? Reflect on what prompted these changes and how they mirror real-life growth or transformation.
5. Trace the evolution of a key theme over the course of the narrative. How does this progression enhance the story's message or impact?
6. Analyze the shifting dynamics between characters. What factors contribute to these changes, and how do they reflect real-world relationships?
7. Explore the author's use of foreshadowing to hint at changes or developments. How does recognizing these hints alter your reading experience or anticipation?
8. How do external events (historical, political, cultural) mentioned in the book impact the characters or story over time? Relate this to the impact of real-world events on individuals or communities.
9. Discuss the significance of a character's personal journey or quest. How does this journey reflect broader themes of change and growth?
10. Reflect on how your understanding or interpretation of the book's themes has evolved since you began reading it. What discussions, events, or reflections prompted this evolution?



Unanswered Questions



1. Is there any missing information that you wished was included in this reading selection? How would this information be helpful?
2. Find evidence of ambiguity within this reading selection. What were the author's intention for creating this uncertainty?
3. What unanswered questions do you still have? Why are these unanswered questions important?
4. If you could interview a character from this reading selection, what would you ask them? What do you think their response would be?
5. How might this reading be different if it took place in another era and/or time period?
6. Identify a question the book leaves open or unresolved. How does this ambiguity affect your interpretation of the story or its characters?
7. Discuss an aspect of a character's backstory that remains unclear. How might filling in these details change your understanding of the character?
8. How does the lack of resolution for a particular conflict or dilemma add to the overall impact or realism of the story?
9. Are there any plot points that seem to lead nowhere or questions raised that are never answered? Speculate on possible explanations.
10. Discuss how the book's structure (e.g., non-linear timeline, multiple perspectives) creates unanswered questions for the reader. What effect does this have on your engagement with the text?





Multiple Perspectives



1. What point of view is the reading selection told from? How would it be different if it were told from the perspective of another character or narrator?
2. Defend the actions of the antagonist.
3. What might a family member or adult think of this reading passage? Explain your answer.
4. Consider the impact of gender, age, or social status on a character's perspective within the story. How do these factors shape their worldview?
5. Create a journal entry from a secondary character within this reading.
6. Reflect on how readers from different cultures or historical periods might interpret the themes of the book differently. What factors contribute to these varied interpretations?
7. How do the characters' differing motivations and backgrounds lead to conflict or misunderstanding? Analyze a specific instance in the story.
8. Consider how the resolution of the story might be viewed by various characters. Who benefits, and who might see it as unresolved?
9. Explore how the author's use of language, imagery, or symbolism might be interpreted in multiple ways. Provide examples from the text.
10. Explore a key event in the book from multiple characters' viewpoints. How does this exercise enhance your understanding of the event's significance?



Language of Discipline



1. What descriptive words and/or phrases does the author use to help you visualize a character or setting in this reading selection?
2. Identify a few words from the reading selection that are new to you. How can you use context clues to help you determine their meaning? After you hypothesize their definition, check it with a dictionary.
3. What literary devices (ex. alliteration, onomatopoeia, simile, metaphor, etc.) are used in this reading selection? Find an example and explain its purpose.
4. How does the author use a particular writing technique in this reading selection (ex. descriptive words, style) to make you feel a certain way about a character?
5. Discuss the use of foreshadowing in the narrative. Provide examples and explain how they prepare the reader for future events.
6. Reflect on the narrative point of view. How does this perspective impact the story, and which literary terms help to describe its effect?
7. Discuss the theme of the book. Identify literary devices the author uses to develop or highlight this theme throughout the narrative.
8. Analyze a significant symbol in the book. What does it represent, and how is this symbolism developed?
9. Explore the use of dialogue to reveal character traits or advance the plot. How does the author's style of dialogue fit into recognized literary conventions?
10. Identify an instance of irony in the book. How does this irony enhance the narrative or the reader's understanding of the characters?



Rules



1. What implicit (indirectly stated) and explicit (directly stated) rules do the characters follow in this reading selection?
2. How would you compare the cultural norms of this reading selection with the cultural norms of your world?
3. Does a character in this reading selection behave in an expected or unexpected way? Explain your answer.
4. How does the plot adhere to or diverge from the traditional arc of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution?
5. Discuss how the pacing of the story affects the development of the plot. Are there any rules the author seems to follow or intentionally break to impact the reader's experience?
6. Explore how the author structures the climax of the story. Does it fulfill the expected culmination of tension?
7. Identify a character who challenges the societal rules of their time or setting. What motivates their defiance, and what are the consequences?
8. Reflect on a societal norm or rule within the story that parallels a contemporary issue. How does this connection affect your interpretation of the narrative?
9. Analyze the role of societal rules in shaping the plot. Are there key moments where these rules directly influence the story's direction?
10. Discuss the symbolism of an object, character, or event in the story that represents adherence to or rebellion against societal rules.