



UNIT 3.1

Ask and Answer Questions About a Text



Guided Close Reading



Ask and Answer Questions About a Text



Use a Text to Answer Questions





Ask and Answer Questions About a Text

Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

How to Ask and Answer Questions About a Text

When you read a text, ask yourself questions to make sure you understand the facts or details it contains. Also ask about big ideas and feelings in the text. You can ask questions that begin with *Who*, *What*, *When*, *Where*, *Why*, and *How*. You might also ask "What if" questions. For example, as you read a text, ask yourself:

- Who are the characters? How do they feel?
- When do events happen? Where do they happen?
- Why do the events happen?
- What should I remember about this text?
- What would happen if the characters switched places?

To answer the questions, reread the text.



How to Use a Text to Answer Questions

To answer questions about a text, find the exact part of the text that contains the information you need. The answer may come from more than one place in the text.

When you give your answer, imagine that someone asks you, "How do you know?"

Refer to the exact part or parts of the text that helped you. This is called referring explicitly to the text. To do this:

- Highlight the exact parts that you found.
- Put those parts inside quotation marks.
- Use each quotation in the answer.

For example, if the question is:

Who decided to build a house out of sticks?

The answer could be:

The second pig built a house out of sticks, because the text says, "the second pig bought sticks with which to build a house."



1. Guided Close Reading

To understand complex texts, you need to do close reading. This means reading and rereading a text. Each time you read the text, you understand more about it.

Follow the steps to complete a close reading of "The Duel."

Read to understand the text.

from "The Duel"
by Eugene Field

The gingham dog and the calico cat
Side by side on the table sat;
'Twas half-past twelve, and (what do you think!)
Nor one nor t'other had slept a wink!
5 The old Dutch clock and the Chinese plate
Appeared to know as sure as fate
There was going to be a terrible spat.
(I wasn't there; I simply state
What was told to me by the Chinese plate!)



Where are the two main characters when the poem begins?

**1. Guided Close Reading** continued

- B** Why haven't the characters been asleep, even though it is half-past twelve?

- C** What role does the Chinese plate play in the poem?

Reread to ask questions.

Reread the passage, and think of questions you would like to ask about it.

- D** Write a question about who the characters are.

Reread to answer questions and refer explicitly to the text.

Each time you reread the text, you will be able to answer more questions about it. To explain how you know the answers, refer explicitly to the text. Highlight the parts that help you answer the question and quote them in your answer.



1. Guided Close Reading continued

- E** What do all of the characters have in common?
How do you know?

- F** What is about to happen? How do you know?



Does your response . . .

- show understanding of the passage?
- answer what is asked for in the questions?
- use complete sentences and show command of the conventions of English?



2. Ask and Answer Questions About a Text

As you read a text, ask yourself questions that will help you understand what the text says. When you reread the text, try to answer those questions.

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

from **"The Duel"**
by Eugene Field

Next morning where the two had sat
They found no trace of the dog or cat;
And some folks think unto this day
That burglars stole the pair away!
5 But the truth about the cat and the pup
Is this: They ate each other up!
Now what do you really think of that!
(The old Dutch clock it told me so,
And that is how I came to know.)

- A** Write a question about the different versions of what happened.

**2. Ask and Answer Questions About a Text** continued

B What caused the dog and cat to disappear?

C Who claims to know the truth about the duel?

**Does your response . . .**

- show understanding of the passage?
- answer what is asked for in the questions?
- use complete sentences and show command of the conventions of English?



3. Use a Text to Answer Questions

When you answer a question about a text, find the parts of the text that help you answer. Then refer explicitly to the text in your answer.

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

“How the Rabbit Escaped the Fox”

adapted from a folktale

Fox hunted rabbit all day long. However, Rabbit was very good at disguises, so Rabbit was able to fool Fox. One morning, for example, Rabbit wrapped up in a blanket and pretended to be an old woman cooking soup. Fox came by, hungry after hunting for Rabbit. The woman said, “Here, tired Fox! Have some hot soup.”

“I will, thank you,” said Fox. After a few bites, Fox asked, “Has Rabbit gone by here?”

“Oh yes,” said the woman, pointing to her left. “Rabbit is resting right over there!” When Fox turned to look, the woman hit Fox on the head and ran away.

Later that day, Fox saw an old man dressed as a doctor. The doctor said, “Oh Fox, you have a terrible bump on your head. Let me give you some medicine to make it feel better!”

“Why thank you,” said Fox. “It really does hurt.” Fox lowered his head so the doctor could treat it. Bang! The doctor hit Fox on the head and ran away.



3. Use a Text to Answer Questions continued

A Why is it easy for Rabbit to fool Fox? How do you know?

B Why does the narrator say that Rabbit is wrapped up in a blanket? How do you know?

C Who is the doctor? How do you know?



Does your response . . .

- show understanding of the passage?
- answer what is asked for in the questions?
- use complete sentences and show command of the conventions of English?



Vocabulary

Term	Definition
calico	a kind of cloth with a bright pattern
close reading	carefully examining each word, phrase, and sentence in a text
duel	a planned fight
explicitly	exactly; clearly
fate	what will definitely happen
gingham	a kind of cloth decorated with checks
spat	a fight
trace	a sign to show that something used to be there
unto	until