

Understanding the Book

Choose 9 prompts and write clear answers on separate paper.

- Where did the story take place? Describe the setting(s) in detail in your own words. Find a place in the story where the author describes the setting. Write a response explaining how this description helps the reader understand the story and characters. Would the story be different if the setting were changed? Why?
- Describe a goal that the main character had in his/her life. Describe the steps he/she took to reach that goal. Is the goal reached? If not, why not?
- Describe a feeling that the main character has in the book. What things have happened in his or her life to make them feel this way?
- What is most important to the main character? Explain the situation.
- Identify and explain three ways this character is like you.
- Identify and explain three ways this character is different than you.
- What are the three primary character traits you would use to describe the main character in the book? For each trait you name, give an example from the story that proves it.
- Did you like the main character in this book? Support your answer with reasons from the story.
- Would you like to be best friends with the main character? Explain what traits you discovered in the book that would make him or her a great friend for you. If you wouldn't choose this person to be your best friend, explain why and share the traits that would make it hard.
- Describe an important event from this character's life. Explain it fully so that the readers can picture it in their minds.
- Describe a problem faced by the main character in the book. Explain the situation and describe the decision the character made and the outcome. What would have happened if the character had made a different choice?
- What was the turning point of the story? Make a story map with at least five main events that led up to this point in the story.
- Find three conflicts that took place in the book. Tell what the cause of each conflict was, and the effect each had on the story and the characters.
- If you were the author of this book and wanted to change the title for it, what might you consider naming it? Explain why you have chosen that title and cite supporting evidence from the book.

Tap Your Creativity

Choose 1 of the activities below to complete on separate paper.

- Make a list of 5 quotes from the book that you think are good lessons. Write an explanation for each telling what message the author was trying to tell the reader.
- Based on what you know about the characters in this book, make up a prediction of what the future might hold for them.
- Could this book be made in to a T.V. show, a movie, or what about a videogame? Describe it. Would it be popular with other kids your age? Would you “star” in it?
- Go shopping! Look through ads, catalogs, etc. and make a list of what the main character would want to ask for on his or her next birthday. Explain why he/she would ask for each item. Would you like to keep one of the above gifts? Why?
- Write a test for your novel. Write ten “thinking” questions (not “yes” / “no” questions). Make sure the questions are from the beginning, middle, AND ending of the book. Don’t forget to make an answer key!