



# Independent Reading Question & Prompts



## **Independent Reading:**

Select any book you are interested in reading. If reading isn't your favorite activity (☺), choose a book about something you're interested in, and read that.

Below are a variety of questions or prompts designed to go with any book. Select one or more each day, and write your response in your journal.

## **Personal and Text Connection:**

- Why did you choose this book? Are you happy with the choice so far? Why or why not?
- Do any of the characters remind you of someone in your life? Who and how?
- How are the characters, setting, and problems like those in other stories you have read?
- Were you reminded of anything in your life while reading this story? What and how?
- Find a passage or quote you found interesting. Explain why it interested you.
- What does this story make you think or wonder about?

## **Setting**

- Describe and explain why you would or would not want to live in the time or place that makes up the setting in this story.
- Is the time and/or place important to the story? How?
- In another time or place, how would this story change? Where else could this story take place?
- What sensory detail did the author use to describe the setting? What can you hear, see, feel, smell or taste as you read?
- How is the setting like another place you know?

## **Character**

- How does the author reveal the character? Look at what the character does, thinks or says, and what other characters say about that character.
- Which character is the protagonist? What does the protagonist want? Which character is the antagonist? What does the antagonist want? How does this create conflict?
- Which character taught you the most? What lesson did you learn and how?
- Which characters have changed and which haven't? How is character change important to this story?
- How do the characters feel about one another? Why?

## **Plot**

- What is the inciting incident in this story (the event near the beginning that sets the story in motion)? How does this event change the life of the protagonist?
- What is the central conflict in the story? How do you think it will be resolved?
- What do you think will happen next in the story and why do you think this will happen?
- **After reading:** What is the climax of the story? How does this resolve the central conflict?
- **Fiction:** Do you think this story could really happen? Why or why not?

## **Theme**

- What lesson does this story teach about life? How does it teach it?
- What is this story really about? How do you know?
- Do you think the title is appropriate for this story? Why or why not?
- What does this story mean to you? Why? What can you take away from it?
- Why do you think the author chose to write this story? Why do you think this?

## **Point of View**

- Who tells the story? Is this the best narrator to tell it? Why or why not?
- What other voices could tell this story? Why?
- How would this story be different if told from another character's point of view?

## **Language & Author's Craft**

- Did the author use figurative language to create a feeling or picture in your mind? What words or phrases were especially effective in creating the imagery?
- Where did the author describe something particularly well? Why do you think so?
- Has the author managed to keep you interested and engaged? Why or why not?
- Why do you think the author began (or ended) the story the way she or he did?
- How would you describe the tone and mood of this story? Why?

## **Thinking Outside the Box**

- Write a diary entry from the point of view of one of the characters in the story.
- Pretend you are a friend of one of the characters. Write that character a letter.
- Draw a line down the middle of the page. On the left side, list some events that were 'causes' and on the right hand side describe their 'effects'.
- Create an illustration for one of the settings in the story.
- Draw a picture of what you just read.
- Create a 'WANTED' poster for the antagonist.