

Reading Guide

Pre-K - Grade 1

Before You Read

- Preview the Book: Show the cover and ask, "What do you think this story is about?"
- Introduce Key Vocabulary: Use pictures to teach words that will appear in the story.
- Make Predictions: Ask, "What do you think will happen?"

While You Read

- Point Out Pictures: Ask, "What do you see in this picture?"
- Encourage Participation: Let students repeat phrases or act out actions.
- Ask Simple Questions: "What is the character doing?"

After You Read

- Retell the Story: Use props or puppets to act out the story.
- Discuss Favorite Parts: "What was your favorite part and why?"
- Draw a Scene: Have students draw their favorite part of the story.

Reading Guide

Grades 2-3

Before You Read

- Preview the Title and Illustrations: Ask, "What do you think this book is about? Why?"
- Discuss Background Knowledge: Connect the story to students' experiences.
- Introduce Challenging Words: Create a mini-vocabulary list for the story.

While You Read

- Pause for Questions: "What do you think will happen next?"
- Point Out Context Clues: "What do you think this word means based on the sentence?"
- Engage with the Text: Encourage students to read aloud or silently.

After You Read

- Summarize: Have students write or share 3-5 key events.
- Connect to Personal Experiences: "Has something like this ever happened to you?"
- Create a Book Review: Have students write a simple review: what they liked or didn't like.

Reading Guide

Grades 4-5

Before You Read

- Preview the Text Structure: Look at headings, illustrations, and captions.
- Make Predictions: Based on the cover and title, "What might this story teach us?"
- Set a Purpose for Reading: "Are we reading to learn, to enjoy, or to solve a problem?"

While You Read

- Take Notes: Use sticky notes or a reading journal for key points.
- Ask Deeper Questions: "Why do you think the character did that?"
- Make Connections: "Does this remind you of another book or experience?"

After You Read

- Write a Reflection: What was the main idea or lesson?
- Character Analysis: How did the character change from the beginning to the end?
- Creative Activity: Rewrite the ending or create an alternate version of the story.

Reading Guide

Middle School

Before You Read

- Preview Themes: Discuss possible themes or big ideas in the text.
- Introduce Historical or Cultural Context: Provide background information if needed.
- Pose Essential Questions: "What do you think this story will teach about life?"

While You Read

- Annotate the Text: Highlight or underline key passages and write notes in the margin.
- Pause for Analysis: Discuss plot twists, themes, or symbolism.
- Infer Meaning: "What does this action or dialogue reveal about the character?"

After You Read

- Thematic Analysis: Identify and discuss the central theme or message.
- Group Discussion: Debate a question related to the text, such as a character's decision.
- Project-Based Learning: Create a presentation, video, or creative writing piece inspired by the story.

Reading Guide

High School

Before You Read

- Analyze the Title and Author: What might the title symbolize? What do we know about the author?
- Introduce Critical Lenses: Discuss perspectives such as historical, feminist, or cultural interpretations.
- Set Personal Goals: "What do you want to understand or explore while reading this text?"

While You Read

- Close Reading: Analyze significant passages for literary devices (e.g., imagery, symbolism).
- Discussion Groups: Collaborate to answer higher-order questions.
- Track Themes: Use a graphic organizer to document recurring themes or motifs.

After You Read

- Critical Essay: Write an essay analyzing the author's purpose or a major theme.
- Socratic Seminar: Engage in a structured discussion using text evidence.
- Creative Response: Rewrite the story from a different character's perspective or create a multimedia project.

Reading Guide

Beyond High School

Before You Read

- Reflection: Think about a time when learning about your own culture or another culture changed the way you saw the world. How did it make you feel?
- Discussion Questions: How do you think an ancestor guiding a journey might change the way Amir and his friends understand their identity?
- Research Activity: Look up a historical or cultural tradition from ancient Egypt. Share one interesting fact you find with a partner or group.

While You Read

- Character Tracking: Take notes on Amir and his friends' reactions to what they learn about Egypt. How does their perspective change throughout the story?
- Thematic Analysis: How does the book explore the themes of cultural identity, self-discovery, and intergenerational wisdom?
- Group Discussion Prompts: Have you ever felt a personal connection to history or ancestors? How does that compare to what Amir and his friends experience?

After You Read

- Creative Reflection: Write a letter to an ancestor, imagining what you would ask them about your own heritage.
- Action-Oriented Discussion: What changes could be made in schools or workplaces to better incorporate cultural relevance into learning and engagement?
- Project-Based Learning: Plan a trip (real or virtual) that explores a historical site related to your ancestry or a culture you want to learn more about.