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Distinguishing Between Real and Make-believe

Things you read could happen in real life are **real**. Things you read that could not happen in real life are **make-believe**. When you figure out which parts of a story are real and make-believe, you are **distinguishing between real and make-believe**.

- ★ Read stories are about things that could really happen.
- ★ Make-believe stories are about things that could not really happen.
There are many clues that help you figure out if a story is make-believe.
Some of these clues are animals that can talk, characters who can do things that people cannot do, and places where unusual things happen.
- ★ Often, some parts of a story are real, and other parts are make-believe.

Understanding Distinguishing Between Real and Make-believe

Some things in passages could happen. These things are real. Some things in passages could not really happen. These things are make-believe. Questions about real and make-believe ask you to find things that could happen or things that could not happen. These questions often contain the key words *could really happen* or *could not really happen*.

Quick-Study Cards for

STRATEGIES To ACHIEVE READING SUCCESS

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Finding the Main Idea

The most important idea in a story is called the **main idea**. The main idea tells what a story is mostly or mainly about.

- ★ The main idea is sometimes the first sentence of a story.
- ★ The main idea is sometimes the last sentence of a story.

Understanding Finding the Main Idea

The main idea tells what a story is mostly about. Questions about main idea ask what a story is *mostly* about or *mainly* about. Questions about main idea might also ask you to choose the best title for a story. When you answer a question about main idea, ask yourself, "What is the story telling me? What is the story mostly about?"

Recalling the Facts and Details

Sentences that tell more about the main idea are called **facts and details**. Facts and details explain the main idea.

- ★ Facts and details tell more about the main idea.
- ★ Facts and details often answer *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, and *why* questions. Some of these questions are who, what, where, when, and why questions. Some of these questions are "*Who* is the story about? *What* happens in the story? *Where* does the story take place? *When* does the story take place? *Why* do things happen in the story?"

Understanding Recalling the Facts and Details

Every story has facts and details. Facts and details tell more about the main idea.

Questions about facts and details ask about something that you read in the story. You can look back to the story to find the answer to a question about facts and details.

Sequence

The order in which things happen in a story is called a **sequence**. Sequence tells what happens first, what happens second, and so on.

- ★ Clue words often tell the order in which things happen. Some clue words are *first, next, then, last, before, and after*.
- ★ Look for numbers that tell the order in which things are done. Sometimes, directions or lists have numbers that tell about the order.
- ★ Sometimes, there are no clue words in a story. Think about the beginning, the middle, and the ending of the story. This will help you understand the order in which things happen.

Understanding Sequence

Most stories have three parts—a beginning, a middle, and an ending. Different things happen in each part. These things happen in order. Something happens first, next, and so on. Questions about sequence ask you to put things in order. These questions often have key words such as *first, then, last, after, or before*. Think about when things happened in the story to answer the question of sequence.

Recognizing Cause and Effect

Why something happens is the **cause**.

What happens because of the cause is the **effect**.

- ★ A cause is the reason that something happens.
- ★ An effect is what happens because of the cause.
- ★ Clue word such as *so, since, because, and if* often tell about cause and effect.

Understanding Recognizing Cause and Effect

Anything that happens has two parts. These two parts are called cause and effect. A cause is the reason something happens. An effect is *what* happens. “The vase fell over because the cat jumped on the table” The part of the sentence that tells the reason the vase fell is “because the cat jumped on the table.” This is the cause. The part of the sentence that tells what happens is “The vase fell.” This is the effect. Questions about cause and effect usually have key words such as *why, what happened, or because*.

Making Predictions

When you think about what might happen next in a story, you are **making a prediction**. Making a prediction is a way of using clues from a story to guess what might happen next.

- ★ Clues are often in the title of a story. Read the title, and then make a guess about what you will be reading.
- ★ Clues are often in the facts and details in a story. Details about the things people do and say help you figure out what they might do or say later in the story.
- ★ Clues are often in any pictures that go with the story. Pictures often show something that is happening or will happen soon.

Understanding Making Predictions

A prediction is something that you think will happen at a later time. You might listen to the news and hear a prediction for tomorrow's weather. That prediction is someone's best guess about what will happen at a later time. Questions about predictions ask what will probably or mostly likely happen next in a story. You will not find the answer to these questions in the story. You must use clues in the story to help you make a good guess about what might happen next.

Finding Word Meaning in Context

When you use clues in a story to figure out the meaning of a new word, you are **finding word meaning in context**. The words around a new word often give clues to the word's meaning.

- ★ Clues are often in the sentence where the new word appears. Clues may also be in the sentences before and after the new word.
- ★ Clues about the meaning of a new word are often found by thinking about the way the word is used in the sentence.

Understanding Finding Word Meaning in Context

Sometimes you find a new word when you are reading. You might not know what this new word means. You can usually tell the meaning of the word by the way it is used in the sentence. Questions about word meaning ask you to find the meaning of a word that you may not know. If you do not know the answer, here's a tip you can use. Try each answer choice in the story where the new word is found. Now read this part of the story again. Choose the answer that makes the most sense in the story.

Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

Some things in a story are not clearly told to the reader. Sometimes, you must figure out on your own. Whenever you figure things out on your own, you are **drawing a conclusion or making an inference**.

- ★ Think about the details in a story. Use the details to figure out things that are not told to you.
- ★ Use the details in a story and what you know from your own life to draw a conclusion or make an inference.

Understanding Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

Sometimes you have to figure out things as you read. You might read a story that says "The moon is bright in the dark sky." The story does not say that it is nighttime. You can figure out that it is nighttime because the moon is out and the sky is dark. Questions about drawing conclusion and making inferences often have the key words *you can tell or probably*.

Reading Pictures

Many stories have pictures. The pictures often show something that is explained in the story. Sometimes you must figure out what a picture shows. When you figure out what a picture shows, you are **reading pictures**.

- ★ Clues are often found in the details of the story. Think about what the picture shows. Then think about the story you have read. What did you learn in the story that will help you understand what the picture shows?
- ★ Look back to the story to find the answer to a question about a picture. The answer is often found by thinking about the details of the story.

Understanding Reading Pictures

Questions about reading pictures sometimes ask you to figure out what a picture shows. Other times a question about reading pictures ask you to choose a picture that shows something that happened in a story. Think about what the question is asking. Then look back to the story if you need help choosing an answer.

Comparing and Contrasting

Finding how two or more things are alike and how they are different is called **comparing and contrasting**. Comparing is finding how things are alike. Contrasting is finding out how things are different.

- ★ Clue words that tell how things are alike are *same, like, and alike*.
- ★ Clue words that tell how things are different are *but, unlike, different, and however*.
- ★ People, places, objects, and events can all be compared and contrasted.

Understanding Comparing and Contrasting

Some questions ask you to find how two things are alike and different. This is called compare and contrast, or finding likenesses and differences. Questions that ask you to compare and contrast usually contain key words such as *most like, different, alike, or similar*.

Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion

If a statement is true and can be proved, it is a **fact**. If a statement tells what someone thinks or feels, it is an **opinion**. Facts can be proved. Opinions cannot. When you figure out if a statement is a fact or an opinion, you are **distinguishing between fact and opinion**.

- ★ Facts are statements that can be checked or proved.
- ★ Opinions are statements that cannot be proved. They tell what someone thinks or feels.
- ★ Opinions often contain clue words. Some clue words are *think, feel, believe, and seem*. Other clue words are *always, never, all, none, most, least, greatest, best, and worst*.

Understanding Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion

Questions about facts and opinions ask you to find which statements are fact statements and which statements are opinion statements. Remember, a fact is something that is true. An opinion tells how a person feels about something. Facts can be proven. Opinions cannot. Statements that are opinions often contain key words such as *most, best, nicest, and greatest*.

Identifying Author's Purpose

All authors write for a reason. The reason an author writes something is called the author's purpose. When you figure out why a story was written, you are **identifying the author's purpose**. Authors write for one of four reasons- to describe, to entertain, to explain, or to persuade.

- ★ Some stories mainly describe something, such as a person, place, or thing. The author's reason for writing is to **describe**.
- ★ Some stories mainly tell about something funny or something enjoyable. Some stories also teach a lesson. The author's reason for writing is to **entertain**.
- ★ Some stories mainly tell how to do something. Some stories give lots of information about a person, place or thing. The author's reason for writing is to **explain**.
- ★ Some stories are mainly written to try to get readers to do something, by something, or believe something. The author's reason for writing is to **persuade**.

Understanding Identifying Author's Purpose

Questions about author's purpose ask you why the author wrote the passage. Most authors write for one of these reasons: to persuade (make someone want to do something), to give information, to describe, or to entertain. You can remember these four reasons by remembering P.I.D.E.-P for persuade, I for information, D for description, and E for entertain.

Interpreting Figurative Language

Authors use figurative language to help readers create pictures in their mind. When you understand what the author is telling you, you are **interpreting figurative language**.

- ★ Look for things that are compared in a story. Think about why these two things are being compared.
- ★ Look for words that have a meaning different from their usual meaning. Find word meaning in context to help you understand the meaning of these words.
- ★ Think about any pictures that come to mind as you read. Use pictures to help you understand what the author means.

Understanding Interpreting Figurative Language

Sometimes, writers use words in such a way that their meaning is different from their usual meaning. For examples, someone who has told a secret might say, "I spilled the beans." This is an example of figurative language. These words do not mean that the person actually spilled some beans. These words mean "I didn't mean to tell the secret."