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Introduction

Texts For Close Reading and Deep Comprehension

Close reading involves careful study of a short text passage to build a deep, critical understanding of the text. By developing children's comprehension and higher-order thinking skills, you can help them make sense of the world.

"A significant body of research links the close reading of complex text – whether the student is a struggling reader or advanced – to significant gains in reading proficiency, and finds close reading to be a key component of college and career readiness."
(Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, 2012, p7)

Reading and Re-Reading For Different Purposes

The texts in *Close Reading* are carefully selected and deliberately short. This focuses children on purposeful reading, re-reading and responding. They learn about the topic through rich vocabulary development and deep comprehension.



Children re-read and analyse the text through questioning to explore:

- text structure and features
- key ideas and details
- connections/conclusions
- predictions/inferences
- words and phrases in context.

Children actively respond to the text using:

- higher-order thinking skills
- paired discussion
- written responses.

Text Marking: A Powerful Active-Reading Strategy

To improve their comprehension of informational texts, children must actively engage with the material. Careful and consistent text marking by hand is one valuable way to accomplish this. The true goal of teaching text marking is to help children internalise an effective close-reading strategy, not to have them show how many marks they can make on a page. Text-marking skills are encouraged in each passage.

A Film Classic

Read the personal anecdote.

Then follow the instructions in the Text-Marking box.

My mum believes that *The Wizard of Oz* is the best family film ever. It came out in 1939. It was very popular. The American Film Institute has named it the no.1 fantasy film.

I first saw this film when I was six. That was my mum's age when she first saw it. She made me wait until then because, in her view, the scary scenes would frighten me.

We planned an Oz party. For 'opening night', we made popcorn and sat on a yellow blanket – our Yellow Brick Road. Then mum hit PLAY.

To me, *The Wizard of Oz* began slowly and had boring parts. The Kansas scenes were in black and white. I preferred the scenes in colourful Oz. I enjoyed most of the songs and characters. But overall, I thought it was good, not great. The scary scenes didn't bother me. The tornado seemed like a fairground ride and the Wicked Witch wasn't as mean as other film witches I've seen. Still, I loved watching this famous film with my mum.



Text Marking

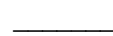
Identify the facts and opinions in the anecdote.



Box at least three signal words or phrases.



Circle at least three facts.



Underline at least three opinions.

A Film Classic

► Answer each question. Give evidence from the anecdote.

1 Which of the following words means the opposite of **fantasy** (paragraph 1)?

- A familiar ► B favourite ► C fairy tale ► D reality

What in the text helped you answer? _____

2 Which clue tells you where the writer and his/her mum watched the film?

- A Then mum hit PLAY.
► B I first saw this film when I was six.
► C The Kansas scenes were in black and white.
► D I loved watching this famous film with my mum.

What in the text helped you answer? _____

3 Summarise the writer's responses to seeing *The Wizard of Oz* for the first time.

4 In your own words, explain how you could tell facts from opinions in this piece.

5 Fact & Opinion Name _____ Date _____

A Film Classic


Read the personal anecdote.
Then follow the instructions in the Text-Marking box.

My mum believes that *The Wizard of Oz* is the best family film ever. It came out in 1939. It was very popular. The American Film Institute has named it the no.1 fantasy film.

I first saw this film when I was six. That was my mum's age when she first saw it. She made me wait until then because, in her view, the scary scenes would frighten me.

We planned an Oz party. For 'opening night', we made popcorn and sat on a yellow blanket our Yellow Brick Road. Then mum hit PLAY.

To me, *The Wizard of Oz* began slowly and had boring parts. The Kansas scenes were in black and white. I preferred the scenes in colourful Oz. I enjoyed most of the songs and characters. But overall, I thought it was good, not great. The scary scenes didn't bother me. The tornado seemed like a fairground ride and the Wicked Witch wasn't as mean as other film witches I've seen. Still, I loved watching this famous film with my mum.



★ ★ Text Marking ★ ★

Identify the facts and opinions in the anecdote.

Box at least three signal words or phrases.

Circle at least three facts.

 Underline at least three opinions.

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◀ Sample Text Markings

Passage 5: A Film Classic

- 1 D; *Sample answer:* The film is about a place called Oz with a wicked witch. I know it is an imaginary place – not a real place.
- 2 A; *Sample answer:* That sentence tells me that they watched at home with a DVD player or on a smart TV or device. You don't press play in a cinema!
- 3 *Sample answer:* The writer expected a great film, but found it a bit disappointing. It wasn't as scary as expected and it had boring parts. To the writer, the best parts were the music and watching with his or her mum.
- 4 *Sample answer:* Facts are statements that are true or really happened. But opinions are how someone feels. Also, there are signal words that are clues, like 'to me', 'I preferred' and 'I loved', which I put boxes around.

6 Fact & Opinion Name _____ Date _____

Awesome Travel Experience

Read the travel advert.
Then follow the instructions in the Text-Marking box.


Are you ready for a jaw-dropping experience? Can you handle awesome beauty? If so, head for Niagara Falls. Here you will see one of North America's finest natural wonders. It's the best holiday spot for families, with much to do and see for folks of all ages.

In the Park Come and visit America's oldest state park. Take fantastic photos. Walk marked footpaths through the park's 400 acres. Hungry? Our restaurants have tasty food and unforgettable views.

Above the Falls Soar over majestic Niagara Falls in a helicopter. You'll feel like an eagle. Or take in the dazzling fireworks on Friday and Saturday nights.

Below the Falls Enjoy New York State's best boat cruise. Pass beside the thundering falls. See how 568 tonnes of tumbling water per second looks and feels close-up. Hear the mighty roar. Or take a misty but thrilling walk through the Cave of the Winds. You can't get any nearer to the falls than that!

Come! We're certain you'll have the thrill of a lifetime!



★ ★ Text Marking ★ ★

Identify the facts and opinions in the advert.

Box at least three signal words or phrases.

Circle at least three facts.

 Underline at least three opinions.

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◀ Sample Text Markings

Passage 6: Awesome Travel Experience

- 1 D; *Sample answer:* The writer says that Niagara Falls is one of North America's finest natural wonders and that it's awesome. So I know the experience has to be one that's exciting and unusual.
- 2 C; *Sample answer:* The other choices are opinions; it is not an opinion that there are fireworks on Friday and Saturday nights.
- 3 *Sample answer:* They are headings that help organise ideas so that readers can more easily see what there is to do at Niagara Falls.
- 4 *Sample answer:* Adverts want you to believe that the place described is so exciting that you will want to go there.