

Critical Skills That Students Need to Understand
for Written Comprehension Portion of TRC

- Setting
- Identify and describe the problem of the story
- Cause and effect
- Making inferences
- Compare and contrast (alike and different)
- Character traits
- Realism vs fantasy
- Making connections
- Identify the lesson of the story
- Vocabulary
- Locating information in non-fiction text
- Using pictures to help better understand the story
- Identify text features
- Main idea
- Describe the relationship between characters
- Sequencing events in a story
- Summarize the text
- Identify current vs historical events

Words to Use During Instruction to Prepare Students for the
Written Comprehension Portion of TRC

- "Use information from the book in your answer"
- "Explain your answer"
- "Use details from the story"
- "Name a character trait for _____"
- "Use details from the book in your answer"
- "Describe _____"
- "Explain by using an example from the story."
- "Use information from the story to explain your answer"
- "Describe _____'s character"
- "Explain how you know"
- "Use details from the story to support your answer"
- "Identify the text that helps the reader know what the word _____ means"
- "Use three key details to support your answer"
- "Use details from the story to indicate..."
- "Describe the relationship between _____ and _____"
- "Explain the meaning of that phrase"
- "When _____ said _____ describe exactly what they meant"
- "Identify text features...."
- "Explain the following phrase as it relates to this story..."
- "Use details from the story to justify your answer"

Level F

- Describe characters, setting and major events of the story using key details from the story.
- What was the main characters problem in the story?
- Who/What helped the main character solve their problem and how did they do it?
- Use illustrations/pictures to describe its characters, setting, or events.
- What do you think the main character will do differently next time?
- Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message.
- What is important to learn from this story? What did the characters learn? What did you learn from the story? How do you know?
- Who is doing the talking in the story? Identify who is telling the story at various points of a text.
- Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories. Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas or pieces of information in text.

Level G

- Describe the problem that the main character had. Describe characters, settings and major events in a story, using key details.
- Describe how the two characters in this story are alike. Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas or pieces of information in a text.
- Explain why a character changes how they act. Use details from the book in your answer.
- Draw a picture to show the problem of the story and explain how your picture shows the problem.
- Compare two things from a book. Use information from the book in your answer. (Can be fiction or non-fiction.)
- Explain a quote from the book using details from the book or find words in the book that tell about a concept. Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feeling or appeal to senses.
- Find three settings from a book and list them.
- Tell two things that you have learned about a character.
- Who is telling the story? How do you know? Use part of the story in your answer.
- Explain an event in the story using details from the book.
- Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories. Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas or pieces of information in text.
- Identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text.
- Create illustrations or identify details in a story to describe its characters, setting or events.
- Identify who is telling the story at various points in a text.

Level H

- Identify words or phrases that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses
- How are the main characters alike?
- Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story using key details.
- Draw a picture of how the main character solved their problem. Explain how your picture shows how the main character solved the problem.

- What does the animal in this story do that a real animal cannot do? Explain by using an example from the story.
- Explain how the main character solved their problem in the story. Use information from the story to explain your answer.
- Describe how the two main characters in the story are different. Use details from the story in your answer. Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.
- How did the main character feel at the end of the story? Explain how you know. Retell stories, including key details and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.
- Write words that support a description of a character. Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.
- Complete a chart that tells about what a character does in different settings. Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why and how to demonstrate understanding of key details.

Level I

- Describe the main characters problem using details from the story.
- Describe a character from the story using details from the story.
Describe characters, settings and major events in a story using key details.
- Describe what happened at the beginning and the end of a story.
- Where do you think the main character went after the story ended?
- Using a picture from the book, describe how the main character feels.
Use details from the story to support your answer.
- Describe how the main character felt at the end of the story and why they felt this way. Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.
- Fables teach lessons. What lesson does this fable teach? Use details from the story to explain your answer. Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures and determine their central message, lesson or moral.
- Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.
- Describe why a title is good title for a book and tell why.
- What problem needs to be solved and why?
- Describe the events at the end of the story that solved the problem.
- Identify the text that helps the reader know what the word _____ means.
- What lesson did the main character learn in this story?
- Tell why a topic in the book is different. Use details to tell why.
- Find sentences in the book that support feelings that a character has. Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to senses.
- Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.

Level J

- What is the problem in the story and how is it solved? Use a detail from the story to help explain your answer.
- Explain how people in the story feel and why they feel this way. Use details from the story to explain your answer.
- What lesson did a character learn in the story? Use a detail from the story to explain your answer.
- Use information gained from the illustrations and words in print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of characters, setting or plot.
- Tell what happened in the beginning, middle and end of the story.
- Explain how a character feels when they find out that something is missing.
- Look at a subtopic in non-fiction text and tell about the most important ideas.
- Explain how a picture helps you understand a part of the text.
- Know and use various text features to locate information in a text efficiently
- Explain how images contribute to and clarify the text.

Level K

- How does a character act when she sees another character? What does he/she say and do?
- Tell what happens in the beginning, middle and end of the story in your own words.
- What is the problem in the story and how is it solved?
- Tell why a character liked a certain activity and use details from the story to explain your answer.
- Tell if a title is a good title and use details from the story to explain your answer.
- Use information gained from the illustrations and words in print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of characters, setting or plot.

- The author uses a specific word to describe an object. Use another word to describe the object and tell why you chose the word.
Distinguish between own point of view from that of the author of the text.
- Determine the main idea of the text and recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.
- How does a character stay safe? Use two details to support your answer.

Level L

- How did the main character feel at the end of the story? Why did they feel this way?
- Explain the actions of a character. Why did they act this way? Use details to support your answer. Describe the characters in a story (traits, motivations or feelings) and how their actions contributed to the sequence of events.
- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as a basis for the answers.
- Identify three text features used in the book. Explain the information you learned from the text feature.

Text Feature	What I Learned

- If you could rename _____, what would you call it? Use information from the book to explain your answer.
- Complete the cause and effect chart

Cause	Effect

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- Explain the result of the cause/effect chart using details from the text.
- Fables teach lessons. What lesson does this fable teach? Use details from the story to explain your answer.

Level M

- Tell about the beginning, middle and the end of a story.
- Explain how a character changes in the story and the reason for the changes. Acknowledge different points of view of characters.
- Explain why the author wrote the book. Use at least two key ideas from the book in your answer. Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain or describe.
- Describe the effects of an action. Use details from the book to explain your answer. Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text.

Level N

- Summarize the story and explain the lesson it teaches
- How do the character's actions change what happens in the story? Use a detail from the story to support your answer.
- Based on information in the book, what is the answer to a question? Use information from the book to explain your answer.
- Explain two key ideas from the book. Use a detail from the book to explain each key idea.

Level O

- Explain the thinking of the characters in the text. Use details from the text to support your answer.
- Explain why an element is important to the story. Support your answer by giving details.
- Do you agree with an action in the text? Explain your answer. Use details from the text to support your answer.
- How are paragraph 2 and 3 connected to each other? Use a detail from the book to explain your answer. Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs (comparison, cause/effect, first/second/third in a sequence).

Paragraph 2	Paragraph 2

Level P

- Read a quote from the story and tell what a sentence means or tell what a word means and tell the context clue that helped you understand. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from non-literal language.
- Describe one of the character's character traits and support your answer with one detail from the story.
- Describe one item from a non-fiction text. Use information and pictures from the book to support your answer.
- Describe the steps in constructing something.