

4 STEP READING PROCESS

Each passages and response questions follow the same 4 Step Process.

Step 1: Read the Passage

Students can read the short reading passage.

Step 2: Think About the Passage

Students can use sticky notes or the blank squares to jot down their thoughts or questions about the text.

Step 3: Organize Your Thinking

Students can organize their thinking around the focus skill with the graphic organizer template.

Step 4: Respond to the Text

Students can answer 3 comprehension questions about the text.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE
Summarizing Fiction

Step 1: Read the Passage

Swimming

Summer break is, of course, Marco's favorite time. He likes to go around, and no sitting in a classroom all day. You are organized and make plans ahead of time.

Marco was texting with his best friend about swimming at the local community center later and jumped out of bed to go talk to his mom. "Mom! Can I go swimming with Sam today?" "Good morning to you, too!" his mom laughed. "This morning."

"Thanks mom, can you drop me off at 1:00?" "Oh, honey, I can't drop you off! I am showing you how to put on your thinking cap and figure something out."

Marco sat down to eat some cereal but didn't know which ones would get him to school heavy and dangerous. Marco dropped his cereal to Sam's house and get a ride with his dad.

Marco's mom was proud of his character. Sam's, as long as he did his chores and homework.

Marco ran upstairs to text Sam about fun things they could do together, so they could work out today. With a spring in his step.

Step 2: Think About the Passage

THINK ABOUT:

- What happened in the beginning? Middle? End?
- What problem or challenge is the character trying to solve?

Add a post-it note directly in this space.

Step 3: Organize Your Thinking

Somebody Who is the story about?	
Wanted What did they want?	
But What is the problem?	
So How did they try to solve the problem?	
Then What is the solution?	

Step 4: Respond to the Text

1. What is the timeline for the events in this passage?
2. Why can't Marco's mom take him swimming later?
3. What is Marco's strategy to avoid not having a ride to an activity in the summer?

SUMMARIZING FICTION

Each text is written as a fictional story and will give students the opportunity to try and summarize the text using a student-friendly strategy.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Summarizing Fiction Name: _____ Date: _____

Step 1: Read the Passage

A Tournament for the King

Ariel lived on a small farm at the edge of the kingdom. She gazed at the castle gleaming in the distance from her humble cottage. She had always dreamed of living a fairy-tale life in that beautiful castle, and now her chance had come. The elderly king was very ill, and didn't have any heirs to take over ruling the land of Sorento. The palace advisors had announced a grand tournament to find the nobleman best suited to becoming king. There would be tests of strength, knowledge, and wisdom. Ariel felt they had missed a couple of opportunities in their search. Perhaps the kingdom needed a queen next, and maybe a commoner would do an amazing job. Ariel had spent her entire life working hard on the farm. She was strong, smart, and wise from making the best of each situation that came her way.

It was early morning and Ariel needed to get to the castle by mid-afternoon, when registration for the tournament would start. The journey would take a few hours, so she dressed in her normal clothes but packed a hat and fine suit of men's clothing. When she reached the castle, Ariel would change and compete in the tournament disguised as a man. Once she won, she would reveal herself as a commoner, and the people would have no choice but to accept her as the rightful ruler of the land.

With her bags packed, chores done, and breakfast eaten, Ariel made her way to the stable for her horse. The barn door stood wide open, her prized stallion King nowhere to be seen. While it's always sad when a pet runs away, losing a work animal on a farm can be catastrophic. Ariel felt like she couldn't breathe, and the world started spinning around her. She would never get to the castle in time!

Ariel forced herself to breathe slowly as she thought about her predicament. After all, if she was going to claim to be the best person to rule the kingdom, she should be able to solve a problem of this magnitude! Thinking about her horse, Ariel wondered where he would wander away to. Then, she had an idea. When brushing and feeding King, Ariel always sung to him folk songs of their land. Running into the house, she grabbed a large sack of apples and returned to the yard. Standing in the middle of the yard, she began singing loud and clear.

Just as her voice was giving out and her time was running out to leave for the castle, she heard rustling behind her. Ariel turned just as King calmly walked out of the forest. With a cry of relief, she ran to him and brushed his silky coat. She let him eat two apples, then said, "Come on King, we have a journey ahead!" She saddled him up, loaded her packs of supplies, and the two set out for the castle.

Step 2: Think About the Passage

THINK ABOUT:

- What happened in the beginning? Middle? End?
- What problem or challenge is the character trying to overcome?
- What details are important to understanding the story?
- What details could be left out of a summary?

Add a post-it note or jot down your thoughts directly in this box.

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Great for practice with the following strategies:

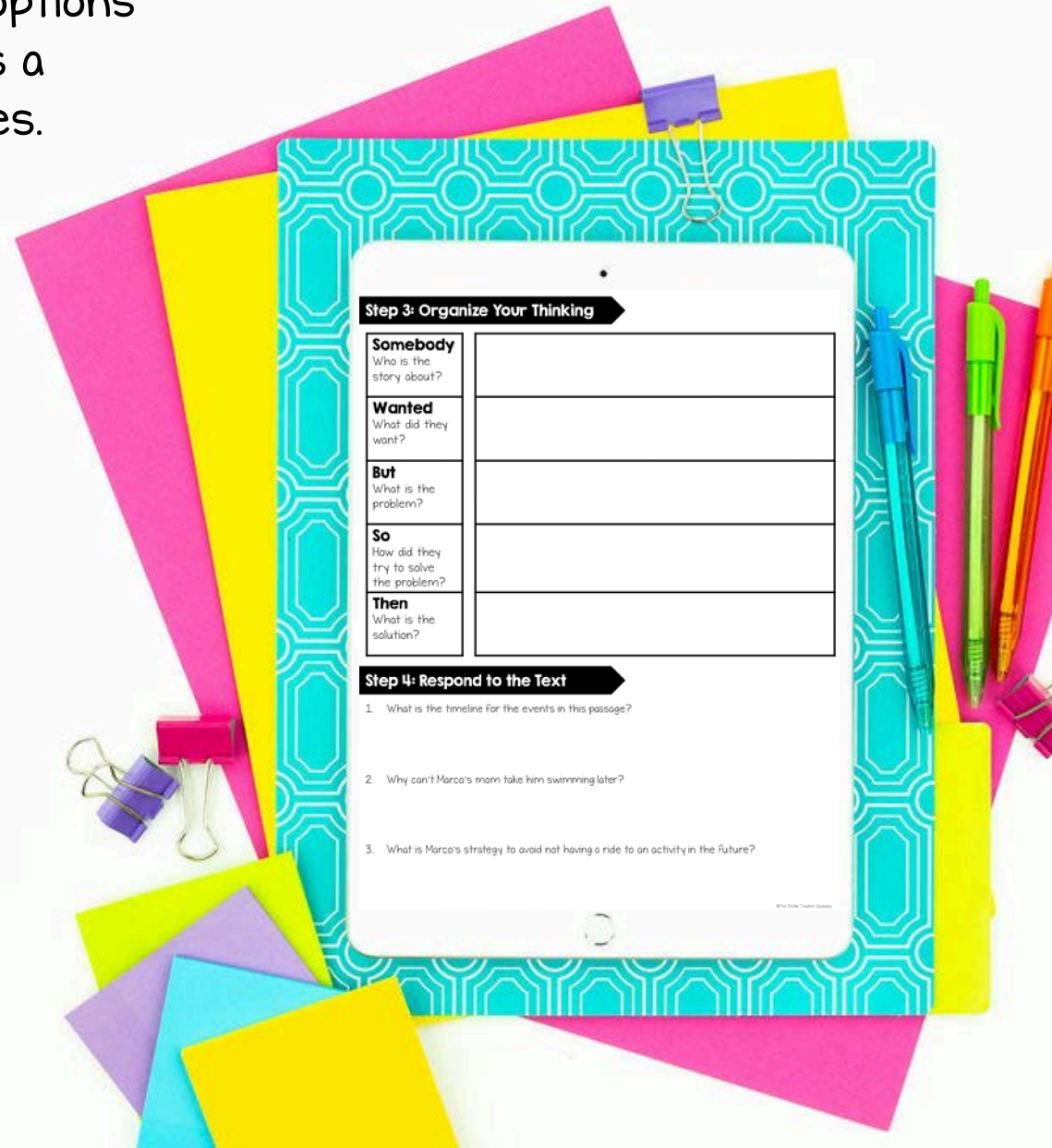
- BME
- SWBST
- Story Elements
- 5 W Questions
- Include/Exclude

Includes Digital Versions

I love to provide both print and digital options in my resources. This resource includes a digital version created using Google Slides.

In addition to the print version, you get a digital version created using Google Slides for all the passages, response pages, and graphic organizers.

Rest assured, you can use this resource in both face-to-face and virtual classrooms.



STUDENT & TEACHER FRIENDLY

These passages are easy for students and teachers to use. There are so many different ways you can use these passages in your classroom.

So Many Classroom Uses:

- Homework
- Independent Practice
- Assessment
- Strategy Lessons
- Small Group Instruction
- Test Prep/Review
- Model
- Partner Practice

Step 3: Organize Your Thinking

Who is the story about?	
What did they want?	
What is the problem?	
How did they try to solve the problem?	
What is the solution?	

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Summarizing Fiction Name: _____ Date: _____

Step 1: Read the Passage

Swimming after Lunch

Summer break is, of course, Marco's favorite time of year. Sleeping in every day, no rushing around, and no sitting in a classroom all day. You can even do a whole bunch of amazing activities if you are organized and make plans ahead of time.

Marco was texting with his best friend before going down for breakfast. Sam texted about going and jumped out of bed to go talk to his mom about it.

"Mom! Can I go swimming with Sam today?" he panted, sliding into the kitchen in sock feet.

"Good morning to you, too!" his mom laughed. "You can go swimming after lunch if you do your chores this morning."

"Thanks mom, can you drop me off at 1:00?"

"Oh, honey, I can't drop you off! I am showing a house this afternoon and won't be here. You'll have to put on your thinking cap and figure something else out."

Marco sat down to eat some cereal and did put his thinking cap on. Could he take the bus? No, he didn't know which ones would get him to the swim center. Could he ride his bike? No, the traffic was too heavy and dangerous. Marco dropped his spoon in his bowl and shouted, "I've got it! He could ride his bike to Sam's house and get a ride with his dad! Now he just had to get permission from his mom."

Marco's mom was proud of his creative thinking and gave permission for him to ride his bike to Sam's, as long as he did his chores and wore his helmet.

Marco ran upstairs to text Sam the good news. He also brought up possibly making a schedule of fun things they could do together, so they could organize the details ahead of time. Luckily, things had worked out today. With a spring in his step, Marco went to do his chores.

Step 2: Think About the Passage

THINK ABOUT:

- What happened in the beginning? Middle? End?
- What problem or challenge is the character trying to overcome?
- What details are important to understanding the story?
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Step 4: Respond to the

What is the timeline for the event?

Why can't Marco's mom take him to the swim center?

What is Marco's strategy to solve the problem?

A LOOK INSIDE...

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Summarizing Fiction Name: _____ Date: _____

Step 1: Read the Passage

Heartbreak in the Wooded Acre

Squirrel and Chipmunk had been best friends for years, scampering around the Wooded Acre. Until today, that is. Squirrel stormed into his knothole home, wishing he had a door to slam. He was SEETHING. Chipmunk had gone TOOFAR.

The best thing about best friends is that they trust each other. Squirrel struggled with so many things, but confidence was probably his main issue. Perhaps it came from being at the bottom of the food chain, but Squirrel felt jittery and nervous around most animals. Chipmunk was the opposite. Charming and outgoing, Chipmunk seemed happy and sure of himself all of the time. Better yet, being around Chipmunk calmed Squirrel down and made him feel more confident. Squirrel had really trusted Chipmunk's friendship, but that had gotten him stabbed in the back.

Squirrel had been out around the Acre today, gathering nuts and enjoying the fine weather. He had seen Sherry Squirrel sweeping out her hollow and give over to say hello. Sherry told Squirrel that Martha Mole had told her that she had overheard Chipmunk laughing about Squirrel BEHIND HIS BACK! This was Squirrel's worst nightmare come true.

After running back home feeling humiliated, Squirrel immediately started thinking about what Chipmunk had probably been saying about him. He was most likely laughing at how insecure Squirrel was. Or laughing because Squirrel thought they were best friends. By now, Squirrel's heart just felt broken. He was never going to trust anyone ever again. Boy was Chipmunk going to be sorry!

Step 2: Think About the Passage

THINK ABOUT:

- What happened in the beginning? Middle? End?
- What problem or challenge is the character trying to overcome?
- What details are important to understanding the story?
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Step 3: Organize Your Thinking

WHO	Who is the story about?
WHAT	What major event/problem is happening?
WHEN	When does this story take place?
WHERE	Where does this story take place?
WHY	Why are the characters acting this way?

Step 4: Respond to the Text

- Why is Zory nervous on her way to the talent show?
- What is an activity that might equate to Zory's love of music on planet Naboon?
- Why did the 3 dancers join Zory on the stage after her performance?

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It was early morning and Ariel needed to get to the castle by mid-afternoon, when registration for the tournament would start. The journey would take a few hours, so she dressed in her normal clothes but packed a hat and five sets of men's clothing. When she reached the castle, Ariel would change and compete in the tournament disguised as a man. Once she won, she would reveal herself as a coroner, and the people would have no choice but to accept her as the rightful ruler of the land.

With her bags packed, chores done, and breakfast eaten, Ariel made her way to the stable for her horse. The barn door stood wide open, her prized stallion King nowhere to be seen. While it's always sad when a pet runs away, losing a work animal on a farm can be catastrophic. Ariel felt like she couldn't breathe, and the world started spinning around her. She would never get to the castle in time!

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Step 3: Organize Your Thinking

Beginning	Middle	End

Step 4: Respond to the Text

- Why does Ansel feel she is the best qualified to be the next ruler of Sorenito?
- Why would it be "catastrophic" for a farm to lose a working farm animal?
- What is the more immediate problem caused by King running away?

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- Why can't Marco's mom take him swimming later?
- What is Marco's strategy to avoid not having a ride to an activity in the future?

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Summarizing Fiction Name: _____ Date: _____

Step 1: Read the Passage

A Talent Show on Naboon

Zory hurried along the walkway on her way to the talent show. She was running late and that just would not keep the current situation. Zory had lived most of her life feeling totally out of place on Planet Naboon. The Kreton people loved to dance and show off. The swirling colors in their retards. Zory had always felt she had been hatched on the wrong planet because she did NOT enjoy twirling around. It just made her feel dizzy and the many colors spun her a headache.

One day when she was younger, Zory discovered quite by accident she could make sounds through her trumpet-shaped proboscis. Since then, whenever she had some privacy, she worked on turning the sounds she made into beautiful melodies she liked to call "music." The only problem was making music was just not done on Naboon. The people were dancers, and their entire way of life revolved around dance. But Zory had started to feel lonely, depressed, and uninspired by her life. So, it was time to share her music with Naboon.

Zory sat onto steps in the rack of time, breathless from hurrying. Even with the bright lights shining in her eyes she could see the community sitting, watching. There had been a lot of speculation about Zory and her failure to love dancing (or be any good at it) taking a deep breath, Zory blew through her instrument and played a song she had made just for this occasion. When it was finished, no one stirred in the audience. It was total silent. Zory was crushed.

Just then, a trio of talented dancers glided onto the stage. They had already competed, so Zory was confused. They danced around the stage making motions towards Zory. Finally, she understood she was to play her music. She started a new song to go with the beautiful dance unfolding before her. The time when the music finished nothing happened. The entire community sat in stunned silence at what they had witnessed. Zory had to admit maybe this just wasn't the place where she belonged. As she twirled off the stage, she heard a clap. Turning around, one Kreton stood clapping its tentacles. One by one, more rose to join the clapping. Zory's heart soared. She hadn't been sure her people would accept her bizarre love for music, and it seemed that they would!

Step 2: Think About the Passage

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- What problem or challenge is the character trying to overcome?
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Step 3: Organize Your Thinking

C Who is this story about?	Where does this story take place?
T What is the theme?	
P What is the problem?	S What is the solution?

Step 4: Respond to the Text

- Who is the narrator in this passage? How can you tell?
- Use evidence from the text to explain how long you think "Darker" has been in junior high.
- Explain what a "gyri friend" is. Can you relate to having a friend like this?



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