Activity ③ The "W" Questions – Making Predictions

This reading comprehension and writing activity helps students develop skills in predicting what will happen next in a story, and also helps them to answer Who? What? When? Where? How? and Why? questions.

Learning Objectives

- Identify clues to look for at the beginning of a book that will help predict what the story is about.
- Use clues to predict what will happen next in a story.
- Respond to "W" questions – who, what, when, where, how and why.
- Write a response.

Getting Ready

- Select an eBook with chapters or logical breaks.
- Connect your laptop or computer to the whiteboard.

eBook Learning Activity

1. Ask students to identify things they might do before reading a book to help predict what the story is going to be about. Record their responses on the whiteboard.

2. Ask, "What clues can we get from the title? The author? The cover?" Include any other relevant things from the list they identified.

3. Launch the selected eBook and have students view the cover or cover page. Ask what clues they get from the illustration.

4. Have them identify the title and author. Ask what clues they get from each.

5. Tell students to independently write down their prediction regarding what the story will be about. Have them put their predictions aside.

6. Using the whiteboard, read the first chapter of the eBook and stop. Ask students to tell you what they think is going to happen next. Tell them to consider the "W" questions: Who will do What to Whom, When, Where, How and Why? Allow for discussion of different opinions. Record a note in the eBook that summarizes the consensus on the prediction or one held by a number of the students.

7. Repeat this process at the end of every chapter or every several chapters.

8. Discuss that predicting is not just a one-time thing you do at the beginning of a book but rather something that is a useful reading strategy to be used throughout the reading of the story.

9. After reading the entire story, ask students to refer to their initial predictions and ask for volunteers to share how close they were to the actual story.

10. Go back to the beginning of the book and search to find chapter breaks. Review predictions captured in the note at the end of each chapter or groups of chapters. Discuss how predictions changed as the story went along.

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Additional Ideas and Alternate Grouping Suggestions

- As a variation on the activity, have students work independently or in small groups to make a prediction at the end of each chapter and highlight text in the chapter that supports the prediction.

- With the whiteboard, focus on the pictures in another eBook. Display one of the pictures from the book and ask, "What is happening in the picture?" "What might be in a picture in the eBook. that would happen next?" Have students write about what will happen next by answering the "W" questions. Record each prediction in a note alongside the picture.

- As a formative assessment technique to obtain quick feedback regarding how well students can summarize what the book was actually about, distribute the "The One-Sentence Summary" worksheet to students and ask them to complete it. As time permits, you can have students work in pairs or small groups to critique and improve one another's one-sentence summaries prior to turning them in.

The One-Sentence Summary

Name: _____

Title of eBook: _____

Directions: Make notes to capture your thoughts about each of the following questions. Then write a one-sentence summary of the eBook that includes the response to each.

Who?

_____

Did/Does What?

_____

To Whom?

_____

When?

_____

Where?

_____

How?

_____

Why?

_____

One-sentence summary:

_____