

### Educator Information and Directions

This document contains practice pages and extension activities. Students can use the pages to practice working with the elements of fiction.

These activities should be completed and reviewed multiple times to reinforce the skills. The main objectives of this learning packet are for students to do the following:

- Identify and understand the meaning of close reading
- Identify key terms associated with close reading
- Practice the skill of close reading
- Practice responding to questions about a text
- Practice asking themselves questions about a text

#### Activities include the following:

- Close reading anchor chart
- Vocabulary worksheet
- Practice passage 1 “The Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing”
- Practice questions 1 “The Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing”
- Practice passage 2 “My Father and the Cat”
- Practice questions 2 “My Father and the Cat”

#### Suggested Gold/\$coops

Using the reward function on the first tab of your parent account, you may wish to award Gold/\$coops for extension activities and/or accomplishments completed outside the website. Upon successful completion of the suggested activities listed to the right, we recommend the following:

***25 Gold/\$coops per successfully completed activity.***

### Extension Activities

#### Notebooking or Mini Library

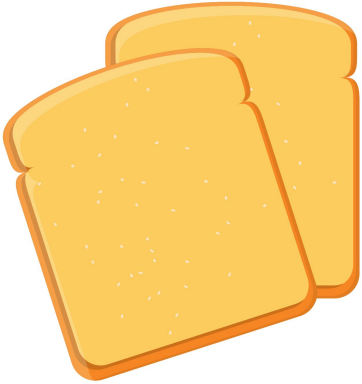
Visuals are an excellent means of learning reinforcement. Consider having your student keep a Reading Response Notebook in which they record what they read, the specific ways in which the author told the story, and what the overall theme or lesson might be. Print the practice passages in this document into your Reading Response Notebook. Encourage students to highlight and circle pieces of the text that they don’t understand or that they particularly enjoyed. Create a mini library for your student, where they can feel free to read and record. Print the Close Reading Anchor Chart included in this document, and use it as a visual reference to guide your student as they read in their mini library or workspace. Print a Reading Log so you can keep track of what your student is reading and how they are progressing. Your student can also keep track of what they have read and rate their reading!

#### Family Learning = Joyful Learning

Joyful learning is an organic result when the whole family is involved. Read and discuss fiction as a family. Encourage your family members to identify elements of fiction as they encounter them throughout their daily reading. Discuss what family members are reading, asking each other questions about different elements of fiction. Listen to books on tape as a family and point out imagery and figurative language. Encourage your student to write about what they are reading and the books on tape they are listening to in their Reading Response Notebook.

# Close Reading - Anchor Chart

Close reading is **actively reading by summarizing, questioning, clarifying, and synthesizing as you read.**



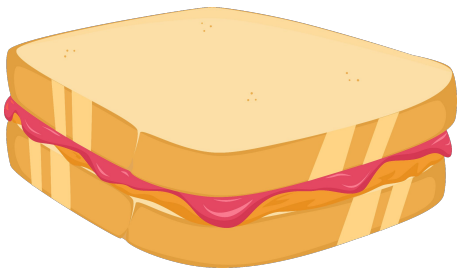
**Summarize** - give a basic overview of the main points in the story and your understanding of them

**Ask:** What is the author saying?



**Question and clarify** - make clearer  
Use **context clues** - hints the reader can use to determine the meaning of an unknown word

**Ask:** How does the author tell the story?



**Synthesize** - combine and connect all the elements to find a greater meaning

**Ask:** What does the story mean?

# Close Reading - Vocabulary

Match each word in the left column with its definition on the right.

Write the corresponding letters next to the vocabulary words.

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. ____ Prediction    | a. To give a brief recap of the main events of the story                                  |
| 2. ____ Context clues | b. To make clearer  |
| 3. ____ Close reading | c. Actively reading by questioning, clarifying, summarizing, and synthesizing as you read |
| 4. ____ Summarize     | d. To combine and connect all the elements to find a greater meaning                      |
| 5. ____ Clarify       | e. An educated guess about what might happen in the story                                 |
| 6. ____ Synthesize    | f. Hints the reader can use to determine the meaning of an unknown word                   |

Use the words in the box to fill in the blanks below.

context clues

prediction

synthesize

summary

1. Rafiq is about to read a passage. He asks himself, "What might this story be about?" Rafiq is making a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Ismael is thinking about the main events of the passage in order to write a \_\_\_\_\_ of what he has read.
3. Christiana doesn't know the meaning of a certain word, so she is looking for \_\_\_\_\_ to help her figure it out.
4. Jaz needs to \_\_\_\_\_ what she has read to determine the theme of the passage.

# Close Reading - Practice Passage 1

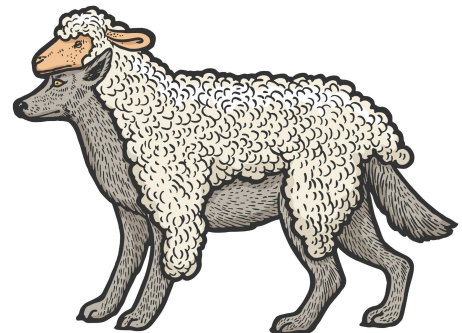
**Purpose for Reading:** The following passage is an adaptation of Aesop's story "The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing." As you read, think about what happens to the wolf and what lesson it might teach us.

## The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

(1) A wolf decided to disguise his appearance in order to secure food more easily. He encased himself in the skin of a sheep, wrapping it around his body.

(2) But, the wolf was too greedy to pay attention. When darkness slowly began creeping in, the shepherd closed the gate of the pen and the Wolf got locked inside.

(3) When the shepherd came back to obtain meat for the next day, he mistook the the Wolf for a sheep, and killed him instantly!



# Close Reading - Practice Questions 1

After you have watched the video, read the passage “The Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing” again. Practice responding to questions about the text and asking yourself questions about the text.

1. What’s happening in the story “The Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing”?

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2. What does the word *encased* mean as it is used in paragraph 1?

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3. Why does the author use the phrase “darkness slowly began creeping in”?

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4. What message is the author trying to convey?

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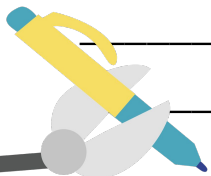
5. Ask yourself a question about the text:

\_\_\_\_\_?

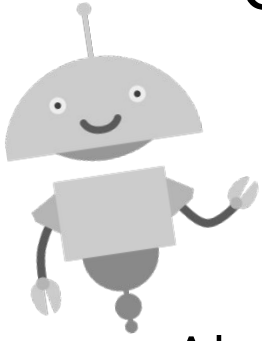
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# Close Reading - Practice Passage 2



**Purpose for Reading:** The following passage is an adaptation from an excerpt from *My Father's Dragon*, by Ruth Stiles Gannett. As you read, think about who is telling the story, who the story is about, and how the characters might feel.

**Adaptation of an excerpt from *My Father's Dragon*, by Ruth Stiles Gannett**

## **"My Father Meets the Cat"**

(1) One cold rainy day when my father was a little boy, he met an old alley cat on his street. The cat was very drippy and uncomfortable so my father said, "Wouldn't you like to come home with me?"

(2) This surprised the cat—she had never before met anyone who cared about old alley cats—but she said, "I'd be very much obliged if I could sit by a warm furnace, and perhaps have a saucer of milk."

(3) "We have a very nice furnace to sit by," said my father, "and I'm sure my mother has an extra saucer of milk."

(4) My father and the cat became good friends but my father's mother was very upset about the cat. She hated cats, particularly ugly old alley cats....

(5) This made my father very sad, and he apologized to the cat because his mother had been so rude. ...Together they went for a walk in the park and tried to think of nice things to talk about. My father said, "When I grow up I'm going to have an airplane. Wouldn't it be wonderful to fly just anywhere you might think of!"

(6) "Would you like to fly very, very much?" asked the cat.

(7) "I certainly would. I'd do anything if I could fly."

(8) "Well," said the cat, "If you'd really like to fly that much, I think I know of a sort of a way you might get to fly while you're still a little boy."

(9) "You mean you know where I could get an airplane?"

(10) "Well, not exactly an airplane, but something even better. As you can see, I'm an old cat now, but in my younger days I was quite a traveler. ...I was particularly interested in a place called Wild Island...it's mostly jungle and inhabited by very wild animals. ...It certainly is an interesting place, but I saw something there that made me want to weep."

# Close Reading - Practice Questions 2

Actively read the adapted excerpt from *My Father's Dragon*, called “My Father Meets the Cat,” by summarizing, questioning, clarifying, and synthesizing as you read. Practice responding to questions about the text and asking yourself questions about the text.

1. What’s happening in the story “My Father Meets the Cat”?

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2. What does the word *obliged* mean as it is used in paragraph 2?

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3. Why does the author use the phrase “mostly jungle and inhabited by very wild animals”?

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4. What is the theme of the story?

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5. Ask yourself a question about the text:

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