

Directions for Chapter Discussion Guides and Comprehension Worksheets

How much of what your kids read do they really comprehend? These FREE thought provoking ideas were developed to help the reader think about and better understand various aspects of literature, writing, and facets of the story such as self-awareness and the moods and motivations of others. In a classroom or homeschool setting, following are some tips from a teacher:

-Don't make each student respond to every idea in the Guides and Worksheets. They tend to get bored and begin to resent the book. Keep it fun!

-Mix it up. Differentiate the workload by assigning students different questions for Independent Practice. Have group discussions heterogeneously or homogeneously.

-“Thinking Maps” are the new “Graphic Organizers” of the past. In this case, students are encouraged to design their own organizer or use certain “bubble patterns.” Almost every “Chapter Chunk” includes this suggestion.



READING ROUND-UP: These “Literary Discussion Group” sessions are devised to give students a focus for their discussion time. Again, limiting the amount of responses required can differentiate the learning. Since these are available to everyone on the web, the level of difficulty of each question has not been labeled. However – Encouraging higher-order thinking skills was a priority!

☞ These pencils indicate a writing task that is to be done on a separate piece of paper. These can be skipped, collected for writing samples, extra- credit, used as class to model good response writing or class discussion.

Benefits of Bonus Exercises Activities

Ongoing Bonus Activities could be done individually, by pairs, and/or as a class. Literary Groups could use them as part of their discussion with each member given a different exercise to be responsible for keeping the worksheet in their “barn” or folder.

- The Suggested Vocabulary Words can be connected with the Word Work Quarter Horses or your own vocabulary extensions.

Wealth of Word Work Horses Help

The “Word Herd” of *Word Work Quarter Horses* was designed to creatively learn more about the selected vocabulary located in the “Ongoing Bonus Exercises” section. Some people learn better visually than orally, and this is one of the many reasons why learning "Graphic Organizers" such as the Word Work Horses are used in the educational environment. Besides, it's more fun than just listing words and definitions! Directions at the bottom of each Word Work Horse, and a sample of each, are provided to help.

-This is another exercise that may be best broken up into groups. Divide the words in each Chapter Chunk and let each student in the group complete Word Work Horses for a few words in the Chunk. Mix up which Word Work Horse is used for each Chapter Chunk and/or little group within the group. Completing all three of the Word Herd for each vocabulary word would become quite tedious for students.

99 Interdisciplinary Activities Assistance

These activities are designed to stretch the imagination a little, and also to fit into certain parts of the structured curriculum that teachers may need to present as part of the school year. They can also be used when working with particular students who either have a weakness or strength in a certain area that a teacher would like to develop. Careful consideration has been given to include ALL subjects and intelligences.

-Pick and choose some of the 99 Activities or let the learners choose once in awhile. Consider celebrating reading by conducting a culminating activity whereupon learners share products with each other and guests!

Instructions are included for most activities, but if you have suggestions for improvement, a funny story to share about using the activities, or if you just *neighed* assistance, please contact EdUCator@believinginhorses.com.

Happy Trails!