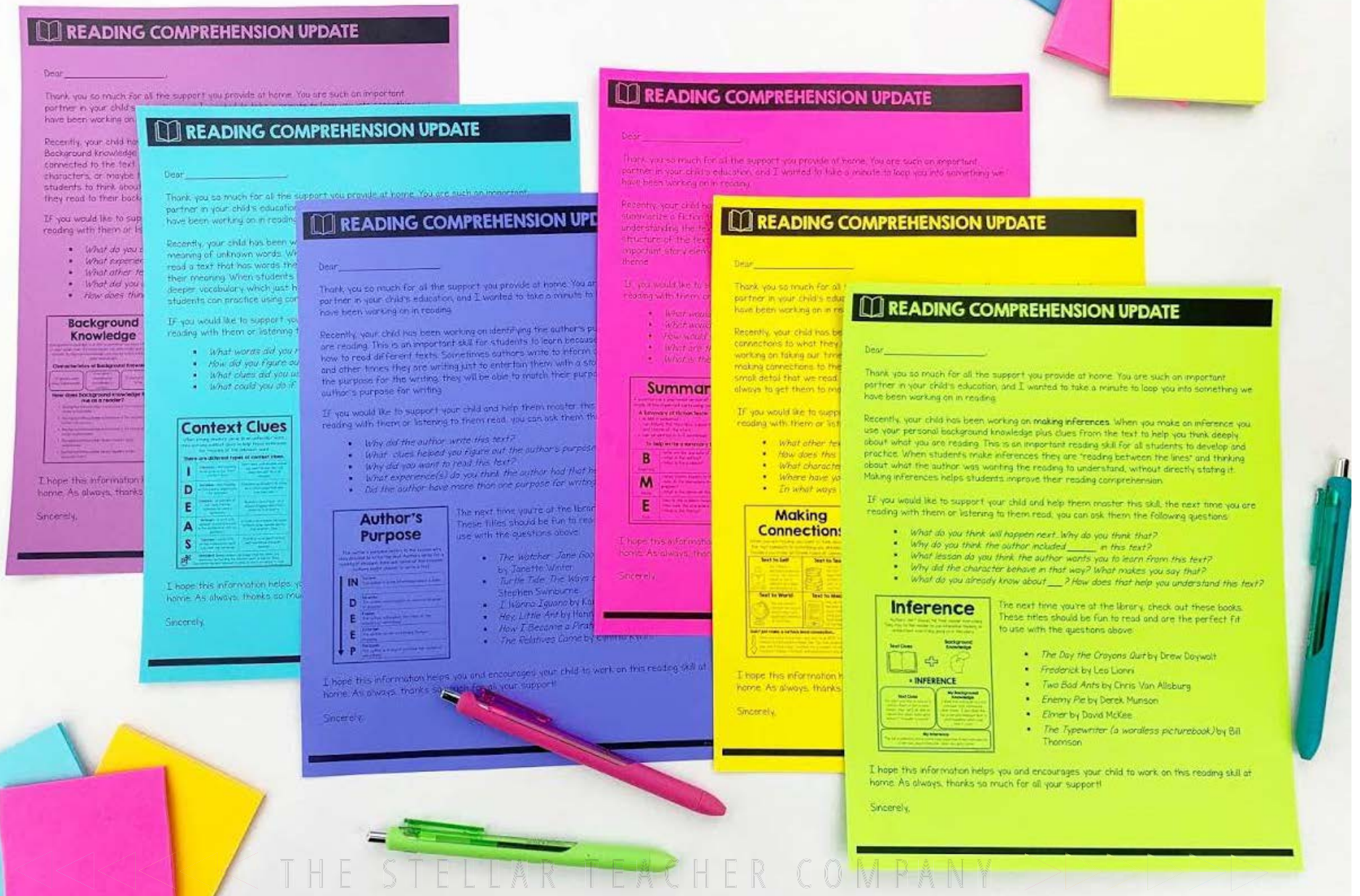


40 PARENT LETTERS

Covers 40 Reading Comprehension Skills



READING COMPREHENSION UPDATE

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for all the support you provide at home. You are such an important partner in your child's education, and I wanted to take a minute to loop you into something we have been working on in reading.

Recently, your child has been working on **Background Knowledge**. When you read a text that has words, characters, or maybe a story that is new to you, you use your background knowledge to help you understand what you are reading. Students do this, too. They use their background knowledge to help them understand what they read to their books.

If you would like to support your child's reading with them or listening to them read, you can ask them the following questions:

- What do you know about _____?
- What experience do you have with _____?
- What other text have you read about _____?
- How does this text connect to what you know?

Background Knowledge

Check the list of background knowledge questions on the back of this letter to see if you can help your child with any of them.

How does background knowledge help us in reading?

I hope this information helps you and encourages your child to work on this reading skill at home. As always, thanks so much for all your support!

Sincerely,

READING COMPREHENSION UPDATE

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for all the support you provide at home. You are such an important partner in your child's education, and I wanted to take a minute to loop you into something we have been working on in reading.

Recently, your child has been working on **Context Clues**. When you read a text that has words, characters, or maybe a story that is new to you, you use your background knowledge to help you understand what you are reading. Students do this, too. They use their background knowledge to help them understand what they read to their books.

If you would like to support your child's reading with them or listening to them read, you can ask them the following questions:

- What words did you not know?
- How did you figure out the meaning of those words?
- What clues did you use to figure out the meaning?
- What could you do if you didn't know a word?

Context Clues

When you read a text that has words, characters, or maybe a story that is new to you, you use your background knowledge to help you understand what you are reading. Students do this, too. They use their background knowledge to help them understand what they read to their books.

There are different kinds of context clues.

Clue Type	Definition
D efinition	The author gives the meaning of a word or phrase directly in the text.
E xamples	The author gives examples of a word or phrase to help you understand its meaning.
S ynonyms	The author uses a word or phrase that has a similar meaning to the word or phrase you are trying to understand.
A ntonyms	The author uses a word or phrase that has an opposite meaning to the word or phrase you are trying to understand.
S tructure	The author uses the structure of a sentence or paragraph to help you understand the meaning of a word or phrase.

I hope this information helps you and encourages your child to work on this reading skill at home. As always, thanks so much for all your support!

Sincerely,

READING COMPREHENSION UPDATE

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for all the support you provide at home. You are such an important partner in your child's education, and I wanted to take a minute to loop you into something we have been working on in reading.

Recently, your child has been working on **Author's Purpose**. When you read a text, you want to know why the author wrote it. Sometimes authors write to inform, to persuade, or to entertain. When you know the author's purpose for writing, you will be able to match their purpose for writing to the text you are reading.

If you would like to support your child's reading with them or listening to them read, you can ask them the following questions:

- Why did the author write this text?
- What clues helped you figure out the author's purpose?
- Why did you want to read this text?
- What experience(s) do you think the author had that helped them write this text?
- Did the author have more than one purpose for writing?

Author's Purpose

The next time you're at the library, check out these titles. These titles should be fun to read and are the perfect fit to use with the questions above.

Author's Purpose	Book Title
Inform	<i>The Watcher</i> by Jane Yolen
Persuade	<i>Turtle Tale</i> by Stephen Swinburne
Entertain	<i>J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i>
Inform	<i>How I Became a Pirate</i> by David Almond
Entertain	<i>The Relatives Game</i> by Chris Riddell

I hope this information helps you and encourages your child to work on this reading skill at home. As always, thanks so much for all your support!

Sincerely,

READING COMPREHENSION UPDATE

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for all the support you provide at home. You are such an important partner in your child's education, and I wanted to take a minute to loop you into something we have been working on in reading.

Recently, your child has been working on **Summarizing**. When you read a text, you want to know the main idea and the most important details. When you summarize a text, you use your own words to tell the main idea and the most important details of the text.

If you would like to support your child's reading with them or listening to them read, you can ask them the following questions:

- What was the main idea of the text?
- How would you summarize the text?
- What are the most important details of the text?
- Why are these details important?

Summarizing

A summary of a text is a short version of the text that tells the main idea and the most important details.

Step	What to Do
B ackground Knowledge	Read the text carefully and think about what you already know about the topic.
M ain Idea	Find the main idea of the text. It is usually the first sentence of the text.
E ssential Details	Find the most important details of the text. These are the details that help you understand the main idea.

I hope this information helps you and encourages your child to work on this reading skill at home. As always, thanks so much for all your support!

Sincerely,

READING COMPREHENSION UPDATE

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for all the support you provide at home. You are such an important partner in your child's education, and I wanted to take a minute to loop you into something we have been working on in reading.

Recently, your child has been working on **Making Connections**. When you read a text, you want to know how it connects to what you already know, what you are reading, or what you have read before. Making connections helps you understand the text better and makes reading more interesting.

If you would like to support your child's reading with them or listening to them read, you can ask them the following questions:

- What other text does this remind you of?
- How does this text connect to what you already know?
- What character or event in this text is similar to one in another text?
- Where have you read something like this before?
- In what ways is this text different from what you have read before?

Making Connections

The next time you're at the library, check out these books. These titles should be fun to read and are the perfect fit to use with the questions above.

Text to Self	Text to Text
<i>The Day the Crayons Quit</i> by Drew Daywalt	<i>The Day the Crayons Quit</i> by Drew Daywalt
<i>Frederick</i> by Leo Lionni	<i>Frederick</i> by Leo Lionni
<i>Two Bad Ants</i> by Chris Van Allsburg	<i>Two Bad Ants</i> by Chris Van Allsburg
<i>Enemy Pie</i> by Derek Munson	<i>Enemy Pie</i> by Derek Munson
<i>Elmer</i> by David McKee	<i>Elmer</i> by David McKee
<i>The Typewriter</i> (a wordless picturebook) by Bill Thomson	<i>The Typewriter</i> (a wordless picturebook) by Bill Thomson

I hope this information helps you and encourages your child to work on this reading skill at home. As always, thanks so much for all your support!

Sincerely,

READING COMPREHENSION UPDATE

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for all the support you provide at home. You are such an important partner in your child's education, and I wanted to take a minute to loop you into something we have been working on in reading.

Recently, your child has been working on **Inference**. When you read a text, you want to know what the author is thinking or feeling. When you make an inference, you use your personal background knowledge plus clues from the text to help you think deeply about what you are reading. This is an important reading skill for all students to develop and practice. When students make inferences they are "reading between the lines" and thinking about what the author was working the reading to understand, without directly stating it. Making inferences helps students improve their reading comprehension.

If you would like to support your child's reading with them or listening to them read, you can ask them the following questions:

- What do you think will happen next? Why do you think that?
- Why do you think the author included _____ in this text?
- What lesson do you think the author wants you to learn from this text?
- Why did the character behave in that way? What makes you say that?
- What do you already know about _____? How does that help you understand this text?

Inference

The next time you're at the library, check out these books. These titles should be fun to read and are the perfect fit to use with the questions above.

Text Clues	Background Knowledge
<i>The Day the Crayons Quit</i> by Drew Daywalt	<i>The Day the Crayons Quit</i> by Drew Daywalt
<i>Frederick</i> by Leo Lionni	<i>Frederick</i> by Leo Lionni
<i>Two Bad Ants</i> by Chris Van Allsburg	<i>Two Bad Ants</i> by Chris Van Allsburg
<i>Enemy Pie</i> by Derek Munson	<i>Enemy Pie</i> by Derek Munson
<i>Elmer</i> by David McKee	<i>Elmer</i> by David McKee
<i>The Typewriter</i> (a wordless picturebook) by Bill Thomson	<i>The Typewriter</i> (a wordless picturebook) by Bill Thomson

I hope this information helps you and encourages your child to work on this reading skill at home. As always, thanks so much for all your support!

Sincerely,

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

40 ready to print letters that you can easily send to parents. Each letter provides an explanation of a reading comprehension skill (listed below) and includes questions and book recommendations for that skill. Great tool to keep parents informed and involved.

- Analyzing Character Traits
- Author's Purpose
- Background Knowledge
- Cause and Effect
- Character Traits and Feelings
- Close Reading
- Compare and Contrast
- Context Clues
- Determine Importance
- Drawing Conclusions
- Elements of Fiction
- Facts and Opinions
- Fiction Problem and Solution
- Figurative Language
- Flashbacks and Foreshadowing
- Formulating Questions - Fiction
- Formulating Questions - Nonfiction
- Main Idea
- Making Connections
- Making Inferences
- Making Predictions
- Nonfiction Text Structure: Cause & Effect
- Nonfiction Text Structure: Compare & Contrast
- Nonfiction Text Structure: Description
- Nonfiction Text Structure: Sequence
- Nonfiction Text Structure: Problem & Solution
- Nonfiction Text Structure (all)
- Plot Structure
- Poetry
- Point of View
- Protagonist vs. Antagonist
- Sequencing
- Stop and Jot
- Summary Fiction
- Summary Nonfiction
- Synthesizing
- Text Features
- Theme
- Using Text Evidence
- Visualizing

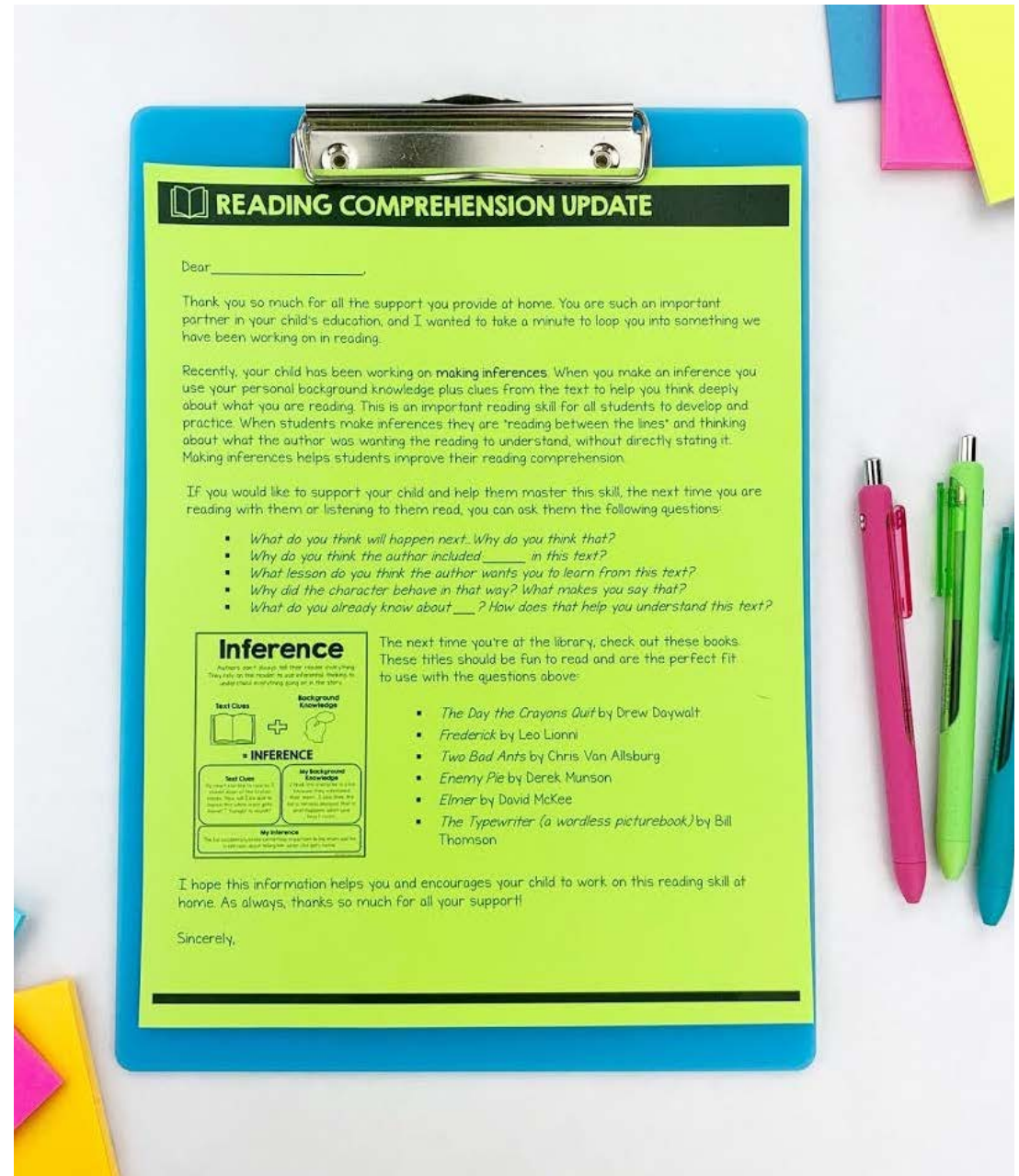
GREAT COMMUNICATION TOOL!

We all know that parent support is such an important part of the success of our students.

These parent letters will make it so easy for you to keep your parents informed with what you are teaching during reading.

Each week you can send home a parent letter and let them know about a reading skill you've been teaching.

This is a great way to encourage parents to support their students at home.



WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Parent Friendly Explanation

Each letter includes a short paragraph that explains what each reading comprehension skill is and why it is important for their child to master that skill.

Skill Related Questions

Each letter includes 3–5 comprehension questions that parents can ask their children at home that will help them practice the specific comprehension skill outlined in the letter.

Book Recommendations

Each letter also includes a list of book recommendations that lend themselves to practicing the reading comprehension skill.

READING COMPREHENSION UPDATE

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for all the support you provide at home. You are such an important partner in your child's education, and I wanted to take a minute to loop you into something we have been working on in reading.

Recently, your child has been working on **analyzing characters** in the stories they are reading. Analyzing characters is an important reading skill because it helps them think deeply about a character's actions, dialogue, feelings, and thoughts. When readers focus on analyzing characters they go beyond the basic description and start to understand what motivates a character act in a certain way. This helps improve their understanding of the story.

If you would like to support your child and help them master this skill, the next time you are reading with them or listening to them read, you can ask them the following questions:

- *What can we learn from how the main character behaves and interacts with the other characters?*
- *What do you think the main character thinks about (but doesn't say out loud)?*
- *What conversations happen between the characters that are significant? Why are they so important?*
- *How does the main character feel? What contributes to them feeling this way?*

Analyzing Character Traits

As readers, we need to pay attention to the text to look for more information. To help you better understand a character you can think **FAST**:

Feelings Pay attention to the character's feelings. • How do they respond to the situation? • How do their feelings change in the story?	Actions Pay attention to the character's actions. • How does the character behave? • What motivates the character to behave that way?
Speech Pay attention to the character's speech. • What do they talk to? • What do they say? • How do they say it? • What don't they say?	Thoughts Pay attention to the character's thoughts. • What internal dialogue does the character have? • What does the character think about themselves? The other characters?

What does this tell me about the character?

The next time you're at the library, check out these books. These titles should be fun to read and are the perfect fit to use with the questions above:

- *The Invisible Boy* by Trudy Ludwig
- *Thank you, Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco
- *Drum Drum Girl* by Margarit Engle
- *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Sheila Rae, The Brave* by Kevin Henkes
- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena
- *Magic Trash* by J.H. Shapiro

I hope this information helps you and encourages your child to work on this reading skill at home. As always, thanks so much for all your support!

Sincerely,

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

*In addition to the ready-to-print PDFs of each letter, there is also an editable PowerPoint file that allows you to customize certain parts of each letter.

Skill Related Questions

In the editable file, there is space for you to add your own comprehension questions so you can align them to the exact way you teach your students.



Book Recommendations

In the editable file, there is space for you to add your own book recommendations so if you have a class favorite you can include that in the letter to your parents.

READING COMPREHENSION UPDATE



Thank you so much for all the support you provide at home. You are such an important partner in your child's education, and I wanted to take a minute to loop you into something we have been working on in reading.

Recently, your child has been working on identifying **character traits and feelings** in the books they are reading. This is an important reading skill because when students can identify a character's traits and feelings they can help explain why a character acts and behaves in a certain way. Identifying traits and feelings also makes it easier for students to be able to make meaningful connections to the story. And when students are able to make strong connections they are able to improve their understanding of what they have read.

If you would like to support your child and help them master this skill, the next time you are reading with them or listening to them read, you can ask them the following questions:

Character Feelings & Traits

The characters you read about in stories have feelings and personality traits, just like you.

Character Feelings	Character Traits
<p>a specific emotion. They can change over time.</p>  <p>List of Feelings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">happysadangryworriedjealoussurprisedembarrassedexcited	<p>consists over time. Traits don't change as quickly as feelings.</p>  <p>List of Traits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">kindgenerousshyrulerespectfulprincipledconfidentathleticcaringpatientsensitivedeterminedindependentbravepridebravejudgingthoughtful

The next time you're at the library, check out these books. These titles should be fun to read and are the perfect fit to use with the questions above:

I hope this information helps you and encourages your child to work on this reading skill at home. As always, thanks so much for all your support!

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A LOOK INSIDE...



A LOOK INSIDE...

READING COMPREHENSION UPDATE

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for all the support you provide at home. You are such an important partner in your child's education, and I wanted to take a minute to loop you into something we have been working on in reading.

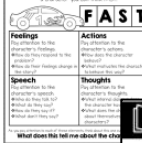
Recently, your child has been working on **analyzing characters** in the stories they are reading. Analyzing characters is an important reading skill because it helps them think deeply about a character's actions, dialogue, feelings, and thoughts. When readers focus on analyzing characters they go beyond the basic description and start to understand what motivates a character act in a certain way. This helps improve their understanding of the story.

If you would like to support your child and help them master this skill, the next time you are reading with them or listening to them read, you can ask them the following questions:

- What can we learn from how the main character behaves and interacts with the other characters?
- What do you think the main character thinks about (but doesn't say out loud)?
- What conversations happen between the characters that are significant? Why are they so important?
- How does the main character feel? What contributes to them feeling this way?

Analyzing Character Traits

Readers use clues to analyze a character's traits for more information. To help you better understand a character, we've created FAST.



The next time you're at the library, check out these books. These titles should be fun to read and are the perfect fit to use with the questions above:

- *The Invisible Boy* by Trudy Ludwig
- *Thank you, Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco
- *Drum Drum Girl* by Margarit Engle
- *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Sheila Rae, The Brave* by Kevin Henkes
- *Lost Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena

I hope this information home. As always, thank

Sincerely,

READING COMPREHENSION UPDATE

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for all the support you provide at home. You are such an important partner in your child's education, and I wanted to take a minute to loop you into something we have been working on in reading.

Recently, your child has been working on identifying the **author's purpose** of the books they are reading. This is an important skill for students to learn because it helps them understand how to read different texts. Sometimes authors write to inform or persuade their readers and other times they are writing just to entertain them with a story. When students know the purpose for the writing, they will be able to match their purpose for reading with the author's purpose for writing.

If you would like to support your child and help them master this skill, the next time you are reading with them or listening to them read, you can ask them the following questions:

- Why did the author write this text?
- What clues helped you figure out the author's purpose?
- Why did you want to read this text?
- What experience(s) do you think the author had that helped them write this book?
- Did the author have more than one purpose for writing this book?

Author's Purpose

The author's purpose refers to the reason why they decided to write the text. Authors write for a variety of reasons. Here are some of the reasons authors might choose to write a text.



The next time you're at the library, check out these books. These titles should be fun to read and are the perfect fit to use with the questions above:

- *The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps* by Janette Winter
- *Turtle Tide: The Ways of the Sea Turtles* by Stephen Swinburne
- *I Wanna Iguana* by Karen Kaufman Orloff
- *Hey, Little Ant!* by Hannah and Phillip Hoose

I hope this information home. As always, thank

Sincerely,

READING COMPREHENSION UPDATE

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for all the support you provide at home. You are such an important partner in your child's education, and I wanted to take a minute to loop you into something we have been working on in reading.

Recently, your child has been working on learning how to **compare and contrast** when they read. This is an important reading skill because this helps students organize information by noting the similarities and differences between particular elements in a text. This helps students think about what they are reading and understand how important ideas or characters are related. To help you better understand this skill, students can compare and contrast two different books or two different characters in the same book.

If you would like to support your child and help them master this skill, the next time you are reading with them or listening to them read, you can ask them the following questions:

- What two characters from the story are most alike? In what ways?
- What two characters from the story most different? In what ways?
- How are _____ and _____ alike? How are _____ and _____ different?
- How does thinking about the similarities and differences between _____ and _____ help to you as a reader?

Compare and Contrast

Readers use clues to compare and contrast elements in a text. To help you better understand a character, we've created Compare and Contrast.



The next time you're at the library, check out these books. These titles should be fun to read and are the perfect fit to use with the questions above:

- *The Rain and the Great One* by Judy Blume
- *I am the Dog, I am the Cat!* by Donald Hall
- *What If You Had Animal Feet?* by Sandra Markel
- *Little Red Riding Hood* by Jerry Pinkney & Lon F. F. by Ed Young
- *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* by Philippe Perrier

I hope this information home. As always, thank

Sincerely,

READING COMPREHENSION UPDATE

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for all the support you provide at home. You are such an important partner in your child's education, and I wanted to take a minute to loop you into something we have been working on in reading.

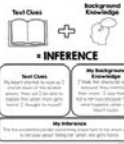
Recently, your child has been working on **making inferences**. When you make an inference you use your personal background knowledge plus clues from the text to help you think deeply about what you are reading. This is an important reading skill for all students to develop and practice. When students make inferences they are "reading between the lines" and thinking about what the author was wanting the reader to understand, without directly stating it. Making inferences helps students improve their reading comprehension.

If you would like to support your child and help them master this skill, the next time you are reading with them or listening to them read, you can ask them the following questions:

- What do you think will happen next. Why do you think that?
- Why do you think the author included _____ in this text?
- What lesson do you think the author wants you to learn from this text?
- Why did the character behave in that way? What makes you say that?
- What do you already know about _____? How does that help you understand this text?

Inference

This skill uses clues from the text and background knowledge to understand something you are reading.



The next time you're at the library, check out these books. These titles should be fun to read and are the perfect fit to use with the questions above:

- *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt
- *Frederick* by Leo Lionni
- *Two Bad Ants* by Chris Van Allsburg
- *Enemy Pie* by Derek Munson
- *Elmer* by David Mackie
- *The Typewriter (a wordless picturebook)* by Bill Thomson

I hope this information helps you and encourages your child to work on this reading skill at home. As always, thanks so much for all your support!

Sincerely,

READING COMPREHENSION UPDATE

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for all the support you provide at home. You are such an important partner in your child's education, and I wanted to take a minute to loop you into something we have been working on in reading.

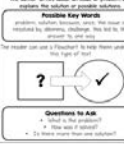
Recently, your child has been working on understanding nonfiction texts. We have been learning all about the **problem and solution text structure**. When nonfiction texts are written in this text structure, the author writes about an issue or problem and explains the solution or possible solutions. If there is more than one solution to the problem the author might share pros and cons of each possible solution. The author might include the following key words to help the reader identify this text structure: because, issue, the answer to, resolved.

If you would like to support your child and help them master this skill, the next time you are reading with them or listening to them read, you can ask them the following questions:

- What is the problem? Why is this a problem?
- Why did the author choose to highlight this problem?
- Has the problem been solved?
- Is there anything being done to solve the problem?
- Is there more than one solution?

Problem & Solution

The author writes about an issue or problem and explains the solution or possible solutions.



The next time you're at the library, check out these books. These titles should be fun to read and are the perfect fit to use with the questions above:

- *Our Earth: How Kids are Saving the Planet* by Janet Wilson
- *When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone* by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent
- *A Place for Butterflies* by Melissa Stewart
- *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba
- *The Right Word* by Jen Bryant

I hope this information helps you and encourages your child to work on this reading skill at home. As always, thanks so much for all your support!

Sincerely,

READING COMPREHENSION UPDATE

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for all the support you provide at home. You are such an important partner in your child's education, and I wanted to take a minute to loop you into something we have been working on in reading.

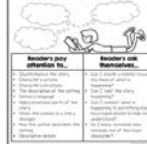
Recently, your child has been working on **visualizing**. When students visualize while they read, they create a mind movie of what is happening in the text. It's like they are seeing the book play out in their minds. Students pay close attention to the details in the text. They look for descriptive words that will help them picture exactly what the character is saying or doing. It's as if they are a part of the story. Visualizing the text is a great strategy to help them understand what they read.

If you would like to support your child and help them master this skill, the next time you are reading with them or listening to them read, you can ask them the following questions:

- When you close your eyes and listen to the story, what do you see?
- What do you think the setting of _____ looks like?
- How do you see the main character in your mind?
- What do you think the author wants you to visualize as you read?
- What descriptive details did the author include that helped you picture this text?

Visualization

Strong readers will visualize while they are reading. When you visualize, you create a picture in your head of what you are reading.



The next time you're at the library, check out these books. These titles should be fun to read and are the perfect fit to use with the questions above:

- *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen
- *Come On, Rain!* by Katherine Hixon
- *The Storm Book* by Charlotte Zolotow
- *The Bunyons* by Audrey Wood
- *Bedhead!* by Margie Palatini
- *Fireflies* by Julie Brinckloe

I hope this information helps you and encourages your child to work on this reading skill at home. As always, thanks so much for all your support!

Sincerely,

Hey! Let's be friends!

Click the icon below to follow me on social media.



Just a heads up...

Make sure you are aware of my terms of use.

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- Teachers may NOT upload this product to school/district servers, or to any website, distribute via e-mail, or share digital or print copies including to file sharing sites.
- You do not have permission to claim any part of it as your own, to copy, or modify it, and you may not share or sell anything based on this document.