



Choice Board

Use these boxes to help you set goals for your thinking and reading work. Be sure to talk to friends or family about your reading and choose one entry per week to send to me so that I can offer you feedback and support.

<p>When you want to connect the setting to the characters, one way you can do this is by pausing to pay attention to the character’s space (bedroom, home, belongings). You might decide to do a sketch entry in your notebook to help you envision. Consider what this teaches you about the character’s personality and circumstance. How does knowing this inform your thinking? Sample entries: One Two</p>	<p>Readers know that every character is brought into the story with a purpose. When you notice that a secondary character takes the stage for a bit, and you want to think about that character’s role in the story, one way you can do that is by asking yourself, “How is this character contributing to the story? How do they help or hurt the main character? What might this story like be without them in it?” Lesson link</p>	<p>We know that characters don’t reveal themselves in single moments, but instead we grow to understand them by reading across the pages. When we are trying to build a fuller picture of a character, we might notice how characters repeat behaviors, interactions, and choices. Then, we can form a theory about the character from this pattern. Tell someone at home about your ideas. “I am reading this book about this person who...” “I notice the character keeps...” This is making me think...”</p>
<p>We know that decisions aren’t made “willy nilly”. There is always a why. When we are trying to understand what is motivating a character’s behavior or choice, we might pause to consider... Who has had power over them? How have they used that power? What lasting impressions has that made?</p>	<p>We know that decisions aren’t made “willy nilly”. There is always a why. When we are trying to understand what is motivating a character’s behavior or choice, we might pause to consider... What bigger life or social issues exist for this character? How do they create opportunities for some and challenges for others? How does that impact your thinking?</p>	<p>As readers we know that characters, just like real people in the world, are complicated. Different aspects of our identity makes us who we are in total and influences the way we act in the world. One way we might develop a deeper understanding of our character is by thinking about the many sides of one of your characters and reflect on how the characters' identities give you a greater depth of understanding. (Click both links to see the full entry.) Page one Page two</p>



<p>When we want to get to know our characters well or maybe even form opinions about them, one way we can do that is by zooming in how they treat each other (their friends, family, teachers, etc...). Form some ideas and consider whether or not you'd welcome them as a friend into your life. You might make a t-chart in your notebook about people you'd friend, and those you'd choose to stay away from Sample.</p>	<p>Often, as we come to the end of the book, we realize that the character has changed because of their experience. As we push ourselves to see the character's full evolution across the book, one way we might consider the character's change is by pretending to be them and reflecting on the book's whole journey. If you do this, you might close your eyes and step into the character's heart and mind, then reflect on the memories made throughout the book and think, "How have I changed because of what's happened?" "What have I learned?" Lesson link</p>	<p>When readers are looking to deepen their thinking about the character might look to what the character really wants because our desires say a lot about us. Try asking yourself, "What does the character really want (in their world or in their heart)? Then pause and talk back to your book (literally or in your notebook) to give the character some advice and empathize with them. You might also take on the role of the character and try to talk to another character from their perspective. Sample entry: One</p>
<p>Contribution Box: Read to someone and stay to chat about the book. Whether you have a younger sibling or a grandparent that you can't physically be with right now, find someone seeking some connection and read to them or video yourself reading a book you know they'd enjoy, and then set up a call to chat. Books can bring us together.</p>	<p>When you see yourself reacting to a line or part in a book, it is often a moment of significance. One way to think deeply about your book is to consider one line that stands out to you or makes you go "Hm...". Pause to reflect on what this part is revealing about the character. You might decide to capture your new understandings or deeper thinking in a t-chart. (Click both links to see the full entry.) Page one Page two</p>	<p>When readers are looking to capture their thoughts for later reflection or conversation, they use reading notebooks to hold onto their thoughts. Decide on a way that you'd like to capture your thinking in an entry. Share your entry and your process with someone at home. You might use stems like...</p> <p>I came to this idea because.... This stood out to me because...</p>