

Strong readers read more deeply by developing a focus for their reading based on where they are in the text.

BEGINNING of the Story

- Who are the characters? What do I notice about them?
- What is the setting/mood?
- How does it affect the characters?
- What kind of people are the characters? Are they similar to/different from me?

**If you want to push your thinking, remember...*

- *Characters are complex*
 - *Who has power? How do you know?*
 - *What relationships exist? Do they change? How?*
 - *What inconsistencies in behavior do you notice?*

MIDDLE of the Story

- What are some conflicts that are arising?
- What type of conflict is it? Is it internal or external?
- Kinds of trouble? How is it the same or different from mine?
- How do characters respond to trouble? What does this reveal about them?
- How are the characters changing? What caused the change? What impact is it having on the story and/or on other characters?
- How is power shifting? What effect is it having?
- What are the major characters' role(s) in the story?

**If you want to push your thinking, remember...*

- *Characters have backstories*
 - *Do you see any flashbacks? (Memory Moments)? What purpose do they serve?*
- *The other characters in the story*
 - *What is their role?*

END of the Story

- What are the lessons that the character learns and/or teaches?
- What are symbols that you've noticed and how have they appeared throughout text? How do they connect to or illuminate the theme?
- How is the conflict resolved? How does it illustrate the theme?
- What *kind* of ending is it? (Tragic? Inspirational?) Explain.
- What are some themes in the text and how does the author reveal these themes?

THROUGHOUT the Story - Author's Craft Techniques:

- Word choice
- Sentence structure
- Use of figurative or descriptive language
- Perspective/Point of View - Is the narrator reliable? How does this affect my understanding of the text? How might it be different if told from a different perspective?