
Good Tidings
Five-Minute Reading Fun Cards
Quick, meaningful activities for any book and any time!
READ
EXPLORE
THINK
CREATE
IMAGINE
GROW
A Book
A Pencil
or Just
Imagination!
30 FUN IDEAS
to build reading skills, creativity, and a love of books!

Comprehension & Understanding

Dig deeper into your reading!

1 The Sentence Detective



1. Read a page from your book.
2. Find an interesting or tricky word or sentence.
3. Look for clues in the text to figure out what it means.
4. Be ready to explain your thinking!

Skills:
Context Clues • Vocabulary
Comprehension

2 Character Check-In



1. Choose a character from your book.
2. How are they feeling today? Why?
3. Use evidence from the text to explain.
4. Share with a partner or write a few sentences.

Skills:
Character Analysis
Inference

3 My Sticky Note Summary



1. Read 3–5 pages from your book.
2. Write a short summary on a sticky note (or paper).
3. Include the main idea and 1–2 important details.
4. Keep it short and in your own words!

Skills:
Summarizing
Main Idea

4 Picture It



1. Read a few pages from your book.
2. Close the book and draw a picture of what you read.
3. Add labels or a short caption if you'd like.
4. Share your picture and explain what it shows.

Skills:
Visualization • Comprehension
Creativity

5 Tell the Author



1. Write a short note to the author.
2. Tell them what you liked, what surprised you, or a question you have.
3. Be kind and thoughtful.
4. Share your note with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Making Connections
Writing

6 The Big Question



1. Read a few pages from your book.
2. Write one big question you have after reading.
3. Use evidence from the text to explain why you're curious.
4. Share and discuss with a partner or small group.

Skills:
Questioning
Critical Thinking

Good Tidings

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Vocabulary & Language Fun

Discover new words. Play with language.
Make reading even more fun!

7 Word Collector



1. Find 5 interesting, funny, or new words in your book.
2. Write them in a list or make a word web.
3. Use a dictionary or context clues to figure out what they mean.
4. Share one of your words with a partner or small group.

Skills:
Vocabulary • Context Clues
Word Meaning

8 Synonym Swap



1. Find a word in your book.
2. Think of a synonym (a word with a similar meaning).
3. Write the new word in a different color or style.
4. Use it in a sentence about the story.

Skills:
Vocabulary • Word Choice
Writing

9 Antonym Adventure



1. Find a word in your book.
2. Think of an antonym (a word with the opposite meaning).
3. Write both words.
4. Use them in a short sentence or draw a picture.

Skills:
Vocabulary • Antonyms
Comparing

10 WOW Words



1. Find a powerful or interesting word. Tell why it stands out.
2. Use it in your own sentence.
3. Challenge a friend to find a WOW word, too!

Skills:
Vocabulary • Expressive Language
Speaking & Listening

11 Make It More Interesting



1. Take a simple sentence from your book.
2. Add descriptive words, details, or action.
3. Turn it into a more exciting sentence.

Skills:
Descriptive Writing
Creativity

12 Word Detective



1. Look for a word you don't know. (It's okay if it's new!)
2. Find clues in the text, illustrations, or nearby words.
3. Figure out what it might mean.
4. Check your guess using a dictionary or a partner.

Skills:
Context Clues • Vocabulary
Problem Solving

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Creativity & Critical Thinking

Use your imagination and think in new ways!

13 Tiny Trailer



1. Read a few pages from your book.
2. Create a tiny movie trailer for the story.
3. Include the main character, setting, and a big moment without giving away the ending.
4. Share your trailer with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Summarizing • Creativity
Story Elements

14 I'm the Character



1. Read a page from your book.
2. Pretend you are the main character.
3. Write a short diary entry or pages from their point of view.
4. Share what you wrote with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Perspective Taking
Creative Writing

15 Text to Self



1. Read a few pages from your book.
2. Think about a time in your own life that is similar to what you read.
3. Write or draw the connection.
4. Share your idea with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Text-to-Self • Making Connections
Reflection

16 Text to World



1. Read a few pages from your book.
2. Think about how the story connects to the real world (or something happening in the world).
3. Write or draw the connection.
4. Share your idea with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Text-to-World • Analysis
Critical Thinking

17 Alternate Ending



1. Read the end of your book (or stop at a good stopping point).
2. Imagine a different ending.
3. Write or draw what could happen instead.
4. Share your alternate ending with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Creativity • Story Structure
Prediction

18 Make a List



1. Read a few pages from your book.
2. Make a list of things you could create, invent, or build that are inspired by the story.
3. Pick one idea and draw or write more about it.
4. Share your idea with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Creativity • Innovation
Idea Generation

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Reading Strategies & Text Features

Look closer, find new clues, and read like a pro!

19 Text Feature Hunt



1. Open a nonfiction book.
2. Find at least three text features (like headings, captions, maps, diagrams, or bold words).
3. Tell what each one helps you learn.
4. Share what was most interesting with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Text Features • Nonfiction Comprehension

20 Main Idea Detective



1. Read a few pages from your book.
2. Figure out the main idea (what the text is mostly about).
3. Find two details that support the main idea.
4. Share your ideas with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Main Idea • Key Details Comprehension

21 Compare Texts



1. Read two books on the same topic (or two parts of a series).
2. Think about how they are alike and how they are different.
3. Use a simple chart, Venn diagram, or list to compare.
4. Share what you discovered with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Comparing • Analysis Critical Thinking

22 Cause & Effect



1. Read a few pages from your book.
2. Find one cause (why something happened) and one effect (what happened because of it).
3. Tell or draw how they are connected.
4. Share your idea with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Cause & Effect Comprehension

23 Fact or Opinion?



1. Read a page from your book.
2. Find one fact (can be proven) and one opinion (what someone thinks or feels).
3. Explain how you know which is which.
4. Share your ideas with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Fact vs. Opinion Critical Thinking

24 Author's Purpose



1. Read a few pages from your book.
2. Decide why the author wrote it (to persuade, inform, or entertain).
3. Find clues in the text to explain your thinking.
4. Share your ideas with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Author's Purpose • Evidence Critical Thinking

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Speaking, Sharing, and Bonus Fun

Talk about your reading, share your ideas, and keep the fun going!

25 Reread and Notice



1. Choose a short section of your book.
2. Reread it slowly.
3. Notice something new a detail, a word, a feeling, or a clue.
4. Share what you noticed with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Close Reading • Observation
Discussion

26 Book Blurb



1. Read a few pages from your book.
2. Write a short book blurb that makes others want to read it.
3. Keep it to 2–4 interesting sentences.
4. Share your blurb with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Summarizing • Persuasion
Writing

27 Act It Out



1. Read a short part from your book.
2. Choose a character, scene, or moment.
3. Act it out using your voice, expressions, and movements.
4. Invite a partner or small group to guess what it is.

Skills:
Expression • Fluency
Creativity

28 Quick Comic



1. Read a few pages from your book.
2. Create a 3–4 panel comic showing what happened.
3. Use pictures and a few words or speech bubbles.
4. Share your comic with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Sequencing • Visualizing
Creativity

29 Share and Compare



1. Read a few pages from your book.
2. Share what you've read with a partner.
3. Listen to what they're reading.
4. Find a similarity and a difference between the two books.

Skills:
Communication • Comparison
Critical Thinking

30 Wild Ending



1. Read the end of your book (or stop at a good stopping point).
2. Imagine a wild or unexpected ending.
3. Write or draw what could happen next.
4. Share your wild ending with a partner or the class.

Skills:
Imagination • Prediction
Creativity