

**Finding the Truth About Life
in Novels**

Directions for your Reading

1. Find a sentence that applies not only to the story but also to real life.
2. Copy it, along with the page number.
3. Write a question that causes a reader to think more deeply about the sentence.

Dec 1-3:48 PM

Dec 1-3:49 PM

Practice

1. Read these sentences taken from novels.
2. Decide which question is best at causing readers to think about the meaning of the sentence.

Clues to good questions:

1. of very significant importance in real life
2. no 'yes' or 'no' answers
3. no simple answers
4. causes a reader to think a lot
5. refers to lots of people and not just one person's experiences

Feb 7-1:29 PM

Feb 11-4:03 PM

"My only problem was that I have never really applied myself" (12).

1. Have you ever thought you were really bad at something until you actually applied yourself?
2. Have you ever noticed that some people do not succeed in reaching their goals because they have never learned how to persevere even when the task becomes difficult?
3. Have you ever noticed that people want a lot of things but they do not want to work for them?

Paulsen, Gary. *Crush*. New York: Wendy Lamb Books, 2012.

"A sacrifice unasked is so much the greater" (19).

1. Have you ever realized that it is a pleasure to sacrifice for others even if no one asks you to?
2. Have you ever felt that doing a favour without being asked is worth more?
3. Have you noticed that the most admirable person is the one who helps without being asked?

Yolen, Jane. *The Devil's Sacrifice*. New York: Puffin Books, 1988.

Feb 7-12:26 PM

Feb 7-12:30 PM

"Some folks are natural born kickers. They can always find a way to turn disaster into butter" (46).

1. Have you ever noticed that some people can take a bad situation and use it for good in this world?
2. Have you ever envied a person who can be positive even in bad situations?
3. Have you ever noticed that some people always find a way to get their own way?

Paterson, Katherine. *Lyddie*. New York: Puffin Books, 1992.

"Would she ever know what the right thing was?" (234).

1. Have you ever made a decision which changed your life, and ever since, you have wondered if you made the correct decision?
2. Have you ever faced a problem for which there was no clearly correct decision?
3. Have you ever wondered what you should do?

Paterson, Katherine. *The Same Stuff as Stars*. New York: Harper Collins, 2002.

Feb 7-12:37 PM

Feb 7-12:40 PM

"...the strange and terrible and good and bad things that happen when you least expect them to" (16).

1. Have you ever had bad things happen when you hope they will not happen?
2. Have you ever noticed that life does not go according to your plan?
3. Have you ever noticed that both good and bad events can happen without warning in life?

Patron, Susan. *The Higher Power of Lucky*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2006.

Feb 7-12:45 PM

"You don't have to like everything" (30).

1. Have you ever realized that even if you don't want to do something, you will have good results if you do what is right?
2. Have you ever noticed that doing what is right is more important than doing what you like?
3. Have you ever thought everything had to go your way?

MacLachlan, Patricia. *Word after Word after Word*. New York: Katherine Tegen Books, 2010.

Feb 7-12:48 PM

"It wasn't terrifying because it was just so...so...unreal" (12).

1. Have you ever felt something that was real was actually imaginary?
2. Have you ever not recognized that you were in danger?
3. Have you ever been so startled by a dangerous situation that you did not feel afraid?

Walters, Eric. *United We Stand*. Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 2009.

Feb 7-12:56 PM

"It was as though madness had infected all of us" (26).

1. Have you ever been in a group in which no one is thinking clearly?
2. Has anything ever drastically changed and affected a whole group of people?
3. Have you ever felt as if something bad is going to happen to everyone?

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. New York: Hill & Wang, 2006.

Feb 7-1:00 PM

"I simply see life as it really is, soberly and accurately..." (70).

1. Have you ever known people who think the world revolves around them?
2. Have you ever lived in your own dream world in which everything seems perfect?
3. Have you ever known anyone who could assess situations clearly and respond appropriately?

Pelevin, Victor. *The Yellow Arrow*. New York: Penguin Books, 1993.

Feb 7-1:03 PM

"Sometimes it's better not to look back" (238).

1. Have you noticed that sometimes the only way to succeed is to focus on what you have to do right now rather than thinking about what you should not have done in the past?
2. Have you noticed that sometimes it is more important to focus on the future rather than thinking about the past?
3. Have you ever had an experience that you never wanted to think about again?

Riggs, Ransom. *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. Philadelphia: Quirk Books, 2011.

Feb 7-1:10 PM

"Talk was like the vitamins of our friendship: Large daily doses kept it healthy" (7).

1. Can you think of anything immaterial that keeps you healthy?
2. Have you ever lost a friendship because you did not have enough time to talk together?
3. Have you ever thought about what it is that makes your friendships strong?

Kongisburg, E.L.. *Silent to the Bone*. New York: Aladdin Paperbacks, 2000.

Feb 7-1:14 PM

"He had learned to keep quiet and to accept the surprises that life brought him" (107).

1. Have you known people who have suffered so much that they no longer say anything when they are treated unkindly?
2. Have you ever experienced a situation in which you did not complain because you did not think it would make any difference?
3. Have you had any life experiences that took you by surprise?

Bondoux, Anne-Laure. *The Killer's Tears*. New York: Random House Children's Books, 2003.

Feb 7-1:20 PM

Feb 7-1:31 PM