

# Comprehension Strategy

## Lesson Plans and Practice Pages

The following preview shows all of the comprehension strategy resources for *How Many Days to America?* by Eve Bunting

### Making Inferences Lesson Plan

**Making Inferences**  
*How Many Days to America?*  
By: Eve Bunting  
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: S

**1**  
**Get Ready To Read**  
✓ Learn about the book  
✓ Get your brain ready to read  
✓ Understand the meaning of important words found in the book

**2**  
**Learn About Comprehension Strategies**  
✓ Think about the text you read  
✓ Know what to do

**Summary**  
*How Many Days to America?* is a story about a family fleeing their home to come to America. Their journey across the Caribbean Sea has many challenges, such as a broken engine, not enough food and water, and thieves that raid their boat. The journey is scary, but they find ways to comfort each other. The family keeps moving forward and eventually arrives in America where a surprise celebration is waiting for them.

**Link to What You Know**  
• What do you think it's like to move to a new place? Have you ever moved? What was it like?  
• Imagine being on a boat for many days and not knowing when you will arrive at your destination. What do you think it would be like?

**Important Words to Know and Understand**  
**Direction** – the course or path on which something is moving or pointing  
**Huddled** – to come close together in a group

**Why Readers Make Inferences While Reading**  
**When readers make inferences they behave like reading detectives.**  
Sometimes the author does not give you all of the information you need to understand everything that is happening in a text. Instead the author gives you clues. You can use the author's clues along with what you already know to make an inference. This is sometimes called "reading between the lines."  
For example, if an author writes: "Jason made a terrible mistake and his face turned bright red," you can infer that Jason is embarrassed. This inference makes sense because you know that if a person's face turns red after making a mistake, it usually means that they feel embarrassed.  
Illustrators also leave clues. Make sure to look at the pictures to learn more about characters, settings, problems, and solutions.

©BookPage.com

Guided Reading Level

Activate Prior Knowledge

Making Inferences Lesson Plan

Key Vocabulary

Explanation of Strategy

Page by Page Guide and Strategy Questions

Turn, Talk, and Reflect

**Making Inferences**  
*How Many Days to America?*  
By: Eve Bunting  
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: S

**3**  
**Make Inferences While Reading**  
✓ Look for clues that tell you how a character might be feeling or what they might be thinking  
✓ Study the pictures. What do you notice

**Time to Read**  
Stop on the following pages. Think about the questions for each page. Then talk with a reading partner or write your thoughts down in your notebook.  
**Page 3** – Why do you think the mother hid the boy and girl under the boat? Make an inference about the boy and girl. What are they thinking?  
**Page 9** – The father asked for the mother's wedding ring and garnets? What can you infer about the way the mother is feeling? What makes you think so?  
**Page 15** – Make an inference about the father. Why was the father singing about being free?  
**Page 19** – Why were they filled with joy when they saw a boat coming towards them? What happened?  
**Page 27** – Make an inference about the boy. Why was the boy afraid to hope when they saw land again?

**4**  
**Notice the Work Reading**  
✓ Think  
✓ Talk  
✓ Reflect  
✓ Write

**Time to Reflect**  
**Think** – What types of inferences did you make while reading *How Many Days to America?*? Did you make inferences to understand new words? Did you infer to understand how a character thinks or feels? What did you already know about people, places, or events that helped you make inferences?  
**Talk** – Discuss this book! Explain why your inference was so helpful to you as a reader. Remember to ask your partner to share their thoughts about the book too.  
**Reflect** – Think about the extra information you learned while making inferences in *How Many Days to America?*. What was easy about making inferences? What was difficult? How does making inferences help you be a better reader?  
**Write** – Glue your Strategy Slip into your reader's notebook. Write about the work you did while reading *How Many Days to America?*. (Remember to include examples from the book!)

©BookPage.com

**Retelling and Summarizing**  
*How Many Days to America?*  
By: Eve Bunting  
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: S

**1**  
**Get Ready To Read**  
✓ Learn about the book  
✓ Get your brain ready to read  
✓ Understand the meaning of important words found in the book

**2**  
**Learn About Comprehension Strategies**  
✓ Think about the text you read  
✓ Know what to do

**3**  
**Retell and Summarize While Reading**  
✓ Think about the important events that happened in the story  
✓ Look for the characters and what they did  
✓ Look for the problem and how it was solved

**4**  
**Notice the Work You Did While Reading**  
✓ Think  
✓ Talk  
✓ Reflect  
✓ Write

**Time to Reflect**  
**Think** – What type of information did you use when you retold or summarized *How Many Days to America?*? Did you use the author's clues along with what you already know to make an inference? What was easy about making inferences? What was difficult? How does making inferences help you be a better reader?  
**Talk** – Discuss this book! Explain why your inference was so helpful to you as a reader. Remember to ask your partner to share their thoughts about the book too.  
**Write** – Glue your Strategy Slip into your reader's notebook. Write about the work you did while reading *How Many Days to America?*. (Remember to include examples from the book!)

©BookPage.com

**Determining Importance**  
*How Many Days to America?*  
By: Eve Bunting  
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: S

**1**  
**Get Ready To Read**  
✓ Learn about the book  
✓ Get your brain ready to read  
✓ Understand the meaning of important words found in the book

**2**  
**Learn About Comprehension Strategies**  
✓ Think about the text you read  
✓ Know what to do

**3**  
**Determine Importance While Reading**  
✓ Look for the main idea and supporting details  
✓ Notice when you are reading something that is important to the story  
✓ Look for new words and understand their meaning

**4**  
**Notice the Work You Did While Reading**  
✓ Think  
✓ Talk  
✓ Reflect  
✓ Write

**Time to Reflect**  
**Think** – What type of information did you use when you determined importance in *How Many Days to America?*? Did you use the author's clues along with what you already know to make an inference? What was easy about making inferences? What was difficult? How does making inferences help you be a better reader?  
**Talk** – Discuss this book! Explain why your inference was so helpful to you as a reader. Remember to ask your partner to share their thoughts about the book too.  
**Write** – Glue your Strategy Slip into your reader's notebook. Write about the work you did while reading *How Many Days to America?*. (Remember to include examples from the book!)

©BookPage.com

Retelling & Summarizing

Determining Importance

**Visualizing**  
*How Many Days to America?*  
By: Eve Bunting  
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: S

**1**  
**Get Ready To Read**  
✓ Learn about the book  
✓ Get your brain ready to read  
✓ Understand the meaning of important words found in the book

**2**  
**Learn About Comprehension Strategies**  
✓ Think about the text you read  
✓ Know what to do

**3**  
**Visualize While Reading**  
✓ Look for the main idea and supporting details  
✓ Notice when you are reading something that is important to the story  
✓ Look for new words and understand their meaning

**4**  
**Notice the Work You Did While Reading**  
✓ Think  
✓ Talk  
✓ Reflect  
✓ Write

**Time to Reflect**  
**Think** – What type of information did you use when you visualized in *How Many Days to America?*? Did you use the author's clues along with what you already know to make an inference? What was easy about making inferences? What was difficult? How does making inferences help you be a better reader?  
**Talk** – Discuss this book! Explain why your inference was so helpful to you as a reader. Remember to ask your partner to share their thoughts about the book too.  
**Write** – Glue your Strategy Slip into your reader's notebook. Write about the work you did while reading *How Many Days to America?*. (Remember to include examples from the book!)

©BookPage.com

**Synthesizing**  
*How Many Days to America?*  
By: Eve Bunting  
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: S

**1**  
**Get Ready To Read**  
✓ Learn about the book  
✓ Get your brain ready to read  
✓ Understand the meaning of important words found in the book

**2**  
**Learn About Comprehension Strategies**  
✓ Think about the text you read  
✓ Know what to do

**3**  
**Synthesize While Reading**  
✓ Look for the main idea and supporting details  
✓ Notice when you are reading something that is important to the story  
✓ Look for new words and understand their meaning

**4**  
**Notice the Work You Did While Reading**  
✓ Think  
✓ Talk  
✓ Reflect  
✓ Write

**Time to Reflect**  
**Think** – What type of information did you use when you synthesized in *How Many Days to America?*? Did you use the author's clues along with what you already know to make an inference? What was easy about making inferences? What was difficult? How does making inferences help you be a better reader?  
**Talk** – Discuss this book! Explain why your inference was so helpful to you as a reader. Remember to ask your partner to share their thoughts about the book too.  
**Write** – Glue your Strategy Slip into your reader's notebook. Write about the work you did while reading *How Many Days to America?*. (Remember to include examples from the book!)

©BookPage.com

Visualizing

Synthesizing

**Answer Key for Retelling and Summarizing with *How Many Days to America?***

**Your Turn to Practice Retelling and Summarizing with *How Many Days to America?***

**Page 3**  
The family has a problem. What's the problem? How does the father want to solve the problem?

**Page 9**  
Name the characters. How do you think the mother is feeling? Answer with evidence from the text.

**Page 15**  
Describe the setting. How do you think the father is feeling? Answer with evidence from the text.

**Answer Key for Making Inferences with *How Many Days to America?***

**Your Turn to Practice Making Inferences with *How Many Days to America?***

**Page 3**  
Why do you think the mother hid the boy and girl under the boat? Make an inference about the boy and girl. What are they thinking?

**Page 9**  
The father asked for the mother's wedding ring and garnets. What can you infer about the way the mother is feeling? What makes you think so?

**Page 15**  
Make an inference about the father. Why was the father singing about being free? Answer with evidence from the text.

**Page 19**  
Why were they filled with joy when they saw a boat coming towards them? What happened? Answer with evidence from the text.

**Page 27**  
Make an inference about the boy. Why was the boy afraid to hope when they saw land again? Answer with evidence from the text.

**Answer Key for Visualizing with *How Many Days to America?***

**Your Turn to Practice Visualizing with *How Many Days to America?***

**Page 3**  
What do you think about the appearance of the boat? Answer with evidence from the text.

**Page 9**  
What do you think the mother is like? What details did the author give you about the appearance of the mother? Answer with evidence from the text.

**Page 15**  
Describe the setting. How do you think the father is feeling? Answer with evidence from the text.

**Answer Key for Synthesizing with *How Many Days to America?***

**Your Turn to Practice Synthesizing with *How Many Days to America?***

**Page 3**  
The author has introduced the problem. What is the problem?

**Page 9**  
What time of day are the people leaving? Why do you think they are choosing this time to leave?

**Pages 13 to 18**  
How does the little boy feel about the journey? What is he dreaming about? Why?

©BookPage.com

Practice Pages and Answer Keys

# Writing About Reading with Optional CCSS Alignment

**"I Can" Statement** →

Strategy and Text Based Reader's Response Prompt

Common Core State Standard

Common Core Free Option

Reading Response Prompts for Each Comprehension Strategy Lesson Plan

## 5 Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizers

**Retelling and Summarizing**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Is it fiction or nonfiction?

Draw a picture or write a sentence for each box below:

First	Next	Then
After that	Then	Last

What is the most important thing you read in this book?

Directions:

- Answer each of the questions.
- Carefully cut on the dotted lines.
- Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.

Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizer | ©BookPagez.com

Retelling and Summarizing

**Making Inferences**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

What the Text Says	What I Know	What I Can Infer
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Directions:

- Answer each of the questions.
- Carefully cut on the dotted lines.
- Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.

Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizer | ©BookPagez.com

Making Inferences

**Visualizing**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

What page did you use to practice visualizing?

Draw a picture of your mental image in the space below:

Write down some of the words that the author used to help you make this picture in your mind.

Show your picture to someone. Make sure that you draw all of the words that helped you visualize.

Directions:

- Answer each of the questions.
- Carefully cut on the dotted lines.
- Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.

Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizer | ©BookPagez.com

Visualizing

**Determining Importance**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Think about the book. Write all of the important information in the thought bubble below.

Now determine 3 BIG ideas, events, words, or facts that are important to you. Draw a picture to illustrate the most important part of your book.

#1 \_\_\_\_\_

#2 \_\_\_\_\_

#3 \_\_\_\_\_

Directions:

- Answer each of the questions.
- Carefully cut on the dotted lines.
- Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.

Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizer | ©BookPagez.com

Determining Importance

**Synthesizing**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

At first I was thinking...	My new thinking is...	I used to think... but now I think...
Because...	Because...	Because...
My new thinking is...	Now I understand...	After thinking about...
Because...	Because...	I conclude...
Because...	Because...	Because...

Directions:

- Answer each of the questions.
- Carefully cut on the dotted lines.
- Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.

Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizer | ©BookPagez.com

Synthesizing