

# Comprehension Strategy Lesson Plans and Practice Pages

The following preview shows all of the comprehension strategy resources for *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig

## Making Predictions Lesson Plan

**Making Predictions**

**Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**  
By: William Steig  
Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: N

**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**

Sylvester is a young burro who enjoys collecting unusual pebbles. One rainy day, Sylvester stumbles upon a most unusual rock. It is flaming red, shiny, and perfectly round, like a marble. Sylvester soon discovers that the pebble is magical. So Sylvester begins to make wishes on the pebble. But soon, he gets carried away and gets himself into an impossible situation.

**Link to What You Know**

- If you got separated from your parents, what would you think you would feel? How do you think your parents might feel?
- If your parents found a magic pebble, what do you think they would wish for?

**Important Words to Know and Understand**

**Buro** - A small donkey  
**Colts** - A young male horse

**Why Readers Make Predictions While Reading**

When readers make predictions they think about what they already know and what they think will logically happen in a text. Sometimes an author will give you clues about the character, settings, or events in the book. In order to make predictions you have to pay attention to the clues and think about the story. Readers often make predictions **before** they start reading, **during** the story, and **after** they have finished reading. Here are some examples of the thinking readers do when making predictions:

**Before Reading Predictions:** What the book will be about, who the main character might be, what big events will happen

**During Reading Predictions:** What a character will do next, how a problem might be solved, what important event will happen

**After Reading Predictions:** Which predictions were correct, which predictions were incorrect, why predictions were incorrect

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Guided Reading Level

Activate Prior Knowledge

Making Predictions Lesson Plan

Key Vocabulary

Explanation of Strategy

Page by Page Guide and Strategy Questions

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**3 Make Predictions While Reading**

- Look for clues that tell you what a character might do next
- Look for clues that tell you about big events that might be coming up next

**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 1** - Preview the text. Look at the pictures. What do you think might happen to Sylvester? Do your predictions match the pictures?

**Page 13** - What predictions can you make? How might Sylvester's parents solve the problem? Do your prediction make sense in the story? Why?

**Page 25** - What predictions can you make? Will Sylvester's parents find him? Why do you think so? Does your prediction make sense in the story?

**Page 30** - Which of your predictions turned out to be correct? What were you surprised by in this story?

**4 Notice the Work You Did While Reading**

- Think
- Talk
- Reflect
- Write

**Time to Reflect**

**Think** - What types of predictions did you make while reading *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*? Did you make predictions about character, events, problems, or solutions? How did you decide whether or not your predictions made sense?

**Talk** - Tell your reading partner about the best predictions you made while reading this book. Explain why your prediction 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 reasons why some of the predictions you made while reading *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* were correct and why others were incorrect. What was scary about making predictions? What was difficult? How does making predictions help you to be a better reader?

**Write** - Give your Strategy Slip into your reader's notebook. Write about the work you did while reading *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*. (Remember to include examples from the text.)

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Turn, Talk, and Reflect

**Identifying the Author's Purpose**

**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 Identify the Author's Purpose While Reading**

- Look for clues that tell you why the author wrote the book
- Look for clues that tell you about the author's purpose

**4 Notice the Work You Did While Reading**

- Think
- Talk
- Reflect
- Write

**Time to Read**

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**Visualizing**

**Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**  
By: William Steig  
Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: N

**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 Visualizing While Reading**

- Look for clues that tell you what the author is trying to show you
- Look for clues that tell you about the author's purpose

**4 Notice the Work You Did While Reading**

- Think
- Talk
- Reflect
- Write

**Time to Read**

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Author's Purpose

Visualizing

**Determining Importance**

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- 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 Determining Importance While Reading**

- Look for clues that tell you what the author is trying to show you
- Look for clues that tell you about the author's purpose

**4 Notice the Work You Did While Reading**

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Determining Importance

**Synthesizing**

**Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**  
By: William Steig  
Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: N

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- 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 Synthesizing While Reading**

- Look for clues that tell you what the author is trying to show you
- Look for clues that tell you about the author's purpose

**4 Notice the Work You Did While Reading**

- Think
- Talk
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- Write

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Synthesizing

Retelling and Summarizing

**Answer Key for Retelling and Summarizing with Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**

**Your Turn to Practice Retelling and Summarizing with Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**

**Page 4:** Preview the text. Look at the pictures. What do you think might happen to Sylvester? Do your predictions match the pictures?

**Page 13:** What predictions can you make? How might Sylvester's parents solve the problem? Do your prediction make sense in the story? Why?

**Page 25:** What predictions can you make? Will Sylvester's parents find him? Why do you think so? Does your prediction make sense in the story?

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**Answer Key for Making Predictions with Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**

**Your Turn to Practice Making Predictions with Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**

**Page 1:** Preview the text. Look at the pictures. What do you think might happen to Sylvester? Do your predictions match the pictures?

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**Answer Key for Identifying the Author's Purpose with Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**

**Your Turn to Practice Identifying the Author's Purpose with Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**

**Page 1:** Preview the text. Look at the pictures. What do you think might happen to Sylvester? Do your predictions match the pictures?

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**Page 30:** Which of your predictions turned out to be correct? What were you surprised by in this story?

**Answer Key for Visualizing with Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**

**Your Turn to Practice Visualizing with Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**

**Page 1:** Preview the text. Look at the pictures. What do you think might happen to Sylvester? Do your predictions match the pictures?

**Page 13:** What predictions can you make? How might Sylvester's parents solve the problem? Do your prediction make sense in the story? Why?

**Page 25:** What predictions can you make? Will Sylvester's parents find him? Why do you think so? Does your prediction make sense in the story?

**Page 30:** Which of your predictions turned out to be correct? What were you surprised by in this story?

**Answer Key for Determining Importance with Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**

**Your Turn to Practice Determining Importance with Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**

**Page 1:** Preview the text. Look at the pictures. What do you think might happen to Sylvester? Do your predictions match the pictures?

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**Page 30:** Which of your predictions turned out to be correct? What were you surprised by in this story?

**Answer Key for Synthesizing with Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**

**Your Turn to Practice Synthesizing with Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**

**Page 1:** Preview the text. Look at the pictures. What do you think might happen to Sylvester? Do your predictions match the pictures?

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Practice Pages and Answer Keys

# Writing About Reading with Optional CCSS Alignment

Strategy and Text Based  
Reader's Response Prompt

"I Can"  
Statement

Common Core State Standard

**Sylvester and the Magic Pebble: Retelling and Summarizing**

What did Mr. Duncan do with the magic pebble at the end of the story? Why do you think the family chose not to use the pebble?

I can ask and answer questions to show that I understand the stories that I am reading. CCSS: RL.3.1

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Common Core Free  
Option

Reading Response Prompts  
for Each  
Comprehension  
Strategy Lesson Plan

## 6 Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizers

**Retelling and Summarizing**

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

Is it fiction or non-fiction?

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

End	Next	Then
After that	Then	Last

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

Directions:  
1. Answer each of the questions.  
2. Carefully cut out the organizer.  
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.

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**Making Predictions**

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

Predictions of the Beginning	Predictions while Reading	Check Predictions at the End

Directions:  
1. Answer each of the questions.  
2. Carefully cut out the organizer.  
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.

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**Identifying the Author's Purpose**

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

What is the author of your book?

What was the author's purpose for writing this book? How do you know?

To Persuade  To Inform  To Entertain

Know because...

What do you think author wanted you to think about while reading this book?

Draw a picture of the most important thing the author made you think about while reading.

Directions:  
1. Answer each of the questions.  
2. Carefully cut out the organizer.  
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.

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**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:  
1. Answer each of the questions.  
2. Carefully cut out the organizer.  
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.

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**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 parts of your book.

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

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

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

Directions:  
1. Answer each of the questions.  
2. Carefully cut out the organizer.  
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your reader's notebook.

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**Synthesizing**

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...

Directions:  
1. Answer each of the questions.  
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Retelling and  
Summarizing

Making  
Predictions

Author's  
Purpose

Visualizing

Determining  
Importance

Synthesizing