



# Critical Reading

Differentiated Instruction Across Genres

## Understanding Main Idea and Theme





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# Use Strategies to Understand What You Read

Sometimes you read to enjoy a good story. At other times, you read to learn something new. No matter why you read, you need to **understand what you read**.

Using **reading strategies** will deepen your understanding of what you read. Use the strategies below to understand the reading selections in this book.

## Before You Read

- ◆ Think about **why** you will read the selection.
- ◆ Read the **title** and look at the **pictures** in the selection.
- ◆ Think about how the selection is **organized**.
- ◆ Think about what you **already know**.
- ◆ For a fiction selection, **guess** what the story is about and what will happen. For a nonfiction selection, **guess** what the selection is about and what information you will find.
- ◆ **Plan** how you will read the selection.

## While You Read

- ◆ Make sure you **understand** what you are reading. If not, make some changes. For example, reread what doesn't make sense.
- ◆ **Ask yourself questions** about what you are reading.
- ◆ **Make connections** between what is in the selection and what you already know.
- ◆ Pay attention to **different kinds of type**, such as dark, or bold, type. Think about why it's different.
- ◆ Study any **pictures, photos, captions, charts, or graphs**.
- ◆ Create a **mental picture** of important details in the selection.

## After You Read

- ◆ Think about **your guesses**. Were your guesses right?
- ◆ **Answer questions** about what you read.
- ◆ **Organize** important parts or details from the selection.
- ◆ **Summarize** the selection.



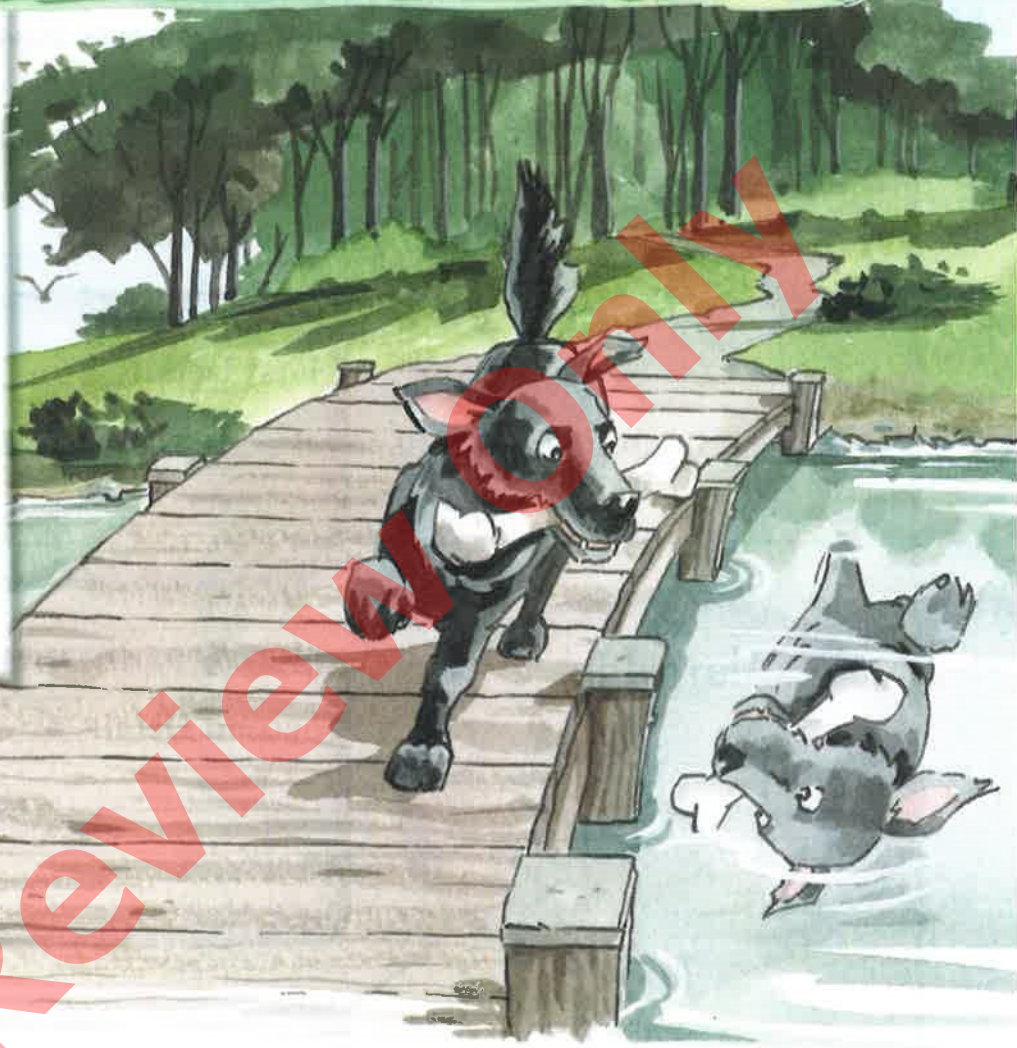
## Lesson 2

# The Dog and Her Bone

### Theme and Fables

Many fiction stories have a theme. The **theme** is the author's message to the reader. In some stories, the author states the theme for readers.

A **fable** is a short folktale. It has a stated theme that is a moral, or lesson about how to behave. The theme usually appears at the end of the fable. To **understand** a fable, think about its theme.



### Reader's Guide

What important thing do you learn about the dog in this sentence?

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Use the Reader's Guide and the highlighted sentences to understand the **theme** of this fable.

Long ago, there lived a big black dog in a small town. She was a good dog. She loved her humans, and she tried hard to please them. Her only problem was that she always wanted more bones than she needed. Whenever she could, she wandered from home to look for a nice, large bone. When she found one, she would sneak off to the park to chew on it all afternoon.

One day the dog found a lovely bone behind a supermarket. It was long. It was thick. It was perfect. She grabbed the bone in her mouth and headed off down the street toward the park.

When the dog reached the park, at first she headed for her favorite shade tree. But such a special bone **deserved** a very special place. The dog decided not to enjoy the bone under her usual shady tree. Instead, she decided to go to the other side of the park, where there was an even bigger shade tree.

To travel to the other side of the park, the dog had to cross a bridge. The bridge ran over a deep creek. With her bone in her mouth, the dog started to trot across the bridge. When she was halfway across, she noticed something in the water.

The dog leaned over the bridge and looked down. She was shocked by what she saw. Another dog was in the creek! In fact, it was another **big black dog**! Most amazing of all, the dog also **had** a very large bone in its mouth. The bone looked just as big and delicious as the one in her mouth.

The dog knew right away that she had to have this new bone, even if it meant taking it away from the other dog. After all, one bone was good, but two would be even better. She began to dream of having the two large, **savory** bones. She imagined how she would lie under the tree for almost a week before they were all chewed up.

● The dog began to growl at the other dog. At first she was careful to hold on tightly to the bone in her mouth. The other dog seemed to growl right back at her through the bone in its mouth. The dog showed her big teeth to the other dog. The other dog showed its big teeth right back.

**deserved** was worthy of

● Is another dog in the creek? Explain.

● Underline the sentences that show the dog is greedy.

**savory** tasty



The dog became more and more upset. She raked the bridge with her claws. So did the dog in the creek. She leaned over to try to reach the other bone and steal it, but the other dog was too far away. Finally the dog became very angry that the other dog would not give her its bone. She leaned over the bridge as far as she could. Then she let out the loudest, meanest bark she could make.

Of course, when the dog opened her mouth, she lost her bone. When it hit the surface of the creek, it wiped away the other dog.

The dog stood there, staring at the water. She could not believe she had lost the best bone she had ever found.

The dog hung her head. Her tail drooped as she slowly, sadly made her way back home.

*If you reach for things that only look good, you may lose the good thing you already have.*

How does the dog lose her bone?

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**drooped** hung low

Explain how the **theme** tells what happens to the dog.

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**Read Fluently** Reread the fluency section aloud to a partner. Use your voice to show how the dog feels.

## Check Your Understanding

Circle the letter for the best answer to each question.

1. Which sentence best describes the dog?
  - A She wants more than she needs.
  - B She likes to get a lot of exercise.
  - C She has a high, soft bark.
  - D She doesn't get fed enough at home.
2. Which of these is most like the fable?
  - A A boy learns that if he tries hard, he will succeed.
  - B A boy loses his dog when it wanders off to look for bones.
  - C A farmer's garden dies because he is too busy planning his next one.
  - D A boy learns to be kind to others even when they are mean to him.
3. What lesson does the dog learn?
  - A Never trust a barking dog.
  - B Silence is better than barking.
  - C Never make a decision when you are hungry.
  - D You should be happy with what you have.

## Deepen Your Understanding

Write your answers on the lines.

4. What should the dog have done differently?

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5. Tell about a time when you should remember the **theme** of the fable.

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## Get Organized

Use the story map below to summarize "The Dog and Her Bone." For plot, write one or two sentences that summarize the story events.

**Author's Purpose**

**Characters**

**Setting**

**"The Dog and Her Bone"**

**Plot**

**Theme**

If you reach for things that only look good, you may lose the good thing you already have.



# From Reading to Writing

On separate paper, use another animal and food to tell another fable.

**Plan Your Writing** Complete the story map below to get ready to write.

Title _____	
Setting _____ _____	Characters _____ _____
Plot Problem _____ _____ _____	Outcome _____ _____ _____
Theme _____ _____	

## For the Best Score

- ☐ I write a fable.
- ☐ I use a different animal as a character in my fable.
- ☐ I use a different food item in my fable.
- ☐ I write the **theme** at the end of my fable.