

Critical Thinking Skills

Master Reading – Big Book

Skills For Critical Thinking		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
LEVEL 1 Remembering	Define, Duplicate, List, Memorize, Recall, Repeat, Reproduce, State	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 2 Understanding	Classify, Describe, Discuss, Explain, Identify, Locate, Recognize	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 3 Applying	Choose, Demonstrate, Dramatize, Employ, Illustrate, Interpret, Operate, Write	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 4 Analysing	Appraise, Compare, Contrast, Criticize, Differentiate, Discriminate, Distinguish, Examine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 5 Evaluating	Argue, Defend, Judge, Select, Support, Value, Decide, Evaluate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 6 Creating	Assemble, Construct, Create, Design, Develop, Formulate, Write.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy



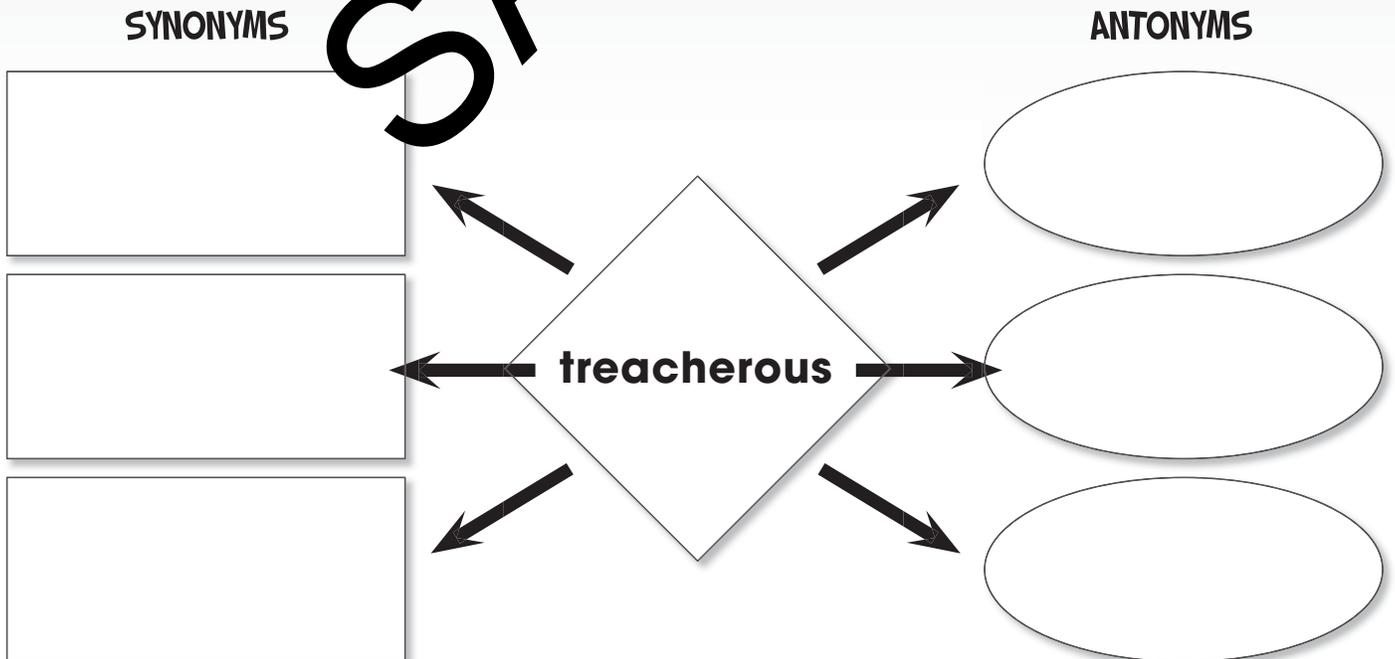
Using Graphic Organizers to Identify Context Clues

1. Put the letter of the correct term beside its definition:

- | | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|--|--|----------|
| A | graphic organizers | | words that mean the opposite of the new word | 1 |
| B | context clues | | diagrams or drawings which help you list your ideas on paper | 2 |
| C | Synonyms | | words or phrases that can help readers understand the meaning of a new word. | 3 |
| D | Antonyms | | words that mean the same as the new word | 4 |

2. Use the information in the following paragraph to complete the graphic organizer. You may use a dictionary after you've tried to complete the organizers on your own.

During a storm at sea the water is *treacherous*. Ships are often broken apart by the strong waves. Others have simply *perished*, never to be found again. Sometimes a simple fishing trip can be *fatal* to passengers if a storm forms while they are at sea. Sea captains must always take *precautions* to keep everyone safe.





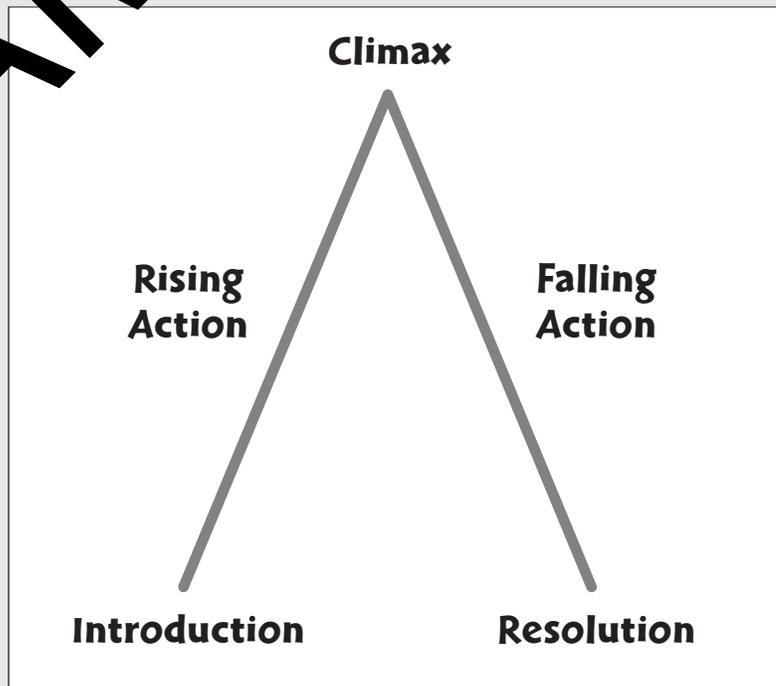
Plot

Now it is time to discuss another very important literary device, **plot**. **Plot** refers to what happens and how it happens in a narrative. A **narrative** is any written work that tells a story, such as a short story, a novel, or a play. **Plot** can also be defined as a “plan of action for a story, play, or movie.” Plot is usually the most important element in a story.

The plot of a story usually unfolds in a particular way. The **introduction** or **opening** describes the characters and the setting of the story. Next, the **rising action** happens. It is during this section of the plot that conflicts are introduced, and readers find out more about the main characters in the story. The third part of a plot is called the **climax**. The climax is the “high point” of a story, when the major conflicts end up in some kind of final showdown (a fight, an argument, physical action, or a very tense emotional moment). The climax is the point in the story where something CHANGES. Then, comes the **falling action**, a time immediately following the climax. The falling action deals with the results of the climax. Finally, the plot ends in a **resolution**, or a tying-up of all the loose ends left in the story. Most resolutions leave the readers with a sense of closure or completion. The five stages of plot development are illustrated in the diagram below.



The Reading Watch Dog says,
“Here is a Plot Diagram to help you understand the plot sequence of a story:”





Keys to Anticipating Consequences

LOST AT SEA You have rented a big boat with three friends. You want to travel in the Atlantic Ocean from Virginia Beach, VA down to the Caribbean island of Jamaica. You have hired an experienced captain. Unfortunately, in the Atlantic a huge storm breaks out and the captain is knocked unconscious. Much of the boat is destroyed and is slowly sinking. Your location is unclear because your radio equipment has been damaged in the storm. Your best guess is that you are hundreds of miles from the nearest land. You and your friends have managed to save 15 items from the storm. Also, you have saved a four man rubber life raft and a box of matches. Your job is to rank the 15 items in terms of their importance for you, as you wait to be rescued. Place the number 1 by the most important item, the number 2 by the second most important, and so on through to number 15 for the least important.

MY RANKING	SALVAGED ITEMS	Coast Guard Score
	A sextant (navigational instrument)	
	A mirror	
	Some mosquito netting	
	A 25 liter container of water	
	army rations (freeze-dried food)	
	Maps of the Atlantic Ocean	
	A floating seat cushion	
	A 10 liter can of gasoline mixture	
	A small radio	
	black plastic sheeting	
	A can of shark repellent	
	One bottle of rum (alcoholic drink)	
	15 ft nylon rope	
	2 boxes of chocolate bars	
	A fishing kit	
TOTAL		TOTAL

Your teacher will compare your score with the Coast Guard's list of most important items. The lower your score is the better! ____

- 0 - 25 Excellent.** You demonstrated great survival skills. Rescued!
- 26 - 32 Good.** Above average results. Good survival skills. Rescued!
- 33 - 45 Average.** Seasick, hungry and tired. Rescued!
- 46 - 55 Fair.** Dehydrated and barely alive. It was tough, but rescued!
- 56 - 70 Poor.** Rescued, but only just in time!
- 71 - 112 Very poor.** Oh dear, your empty raft is washed up on a beach, weeks after the search was called off.