



**Thinking Strips for Open  
Reading Time!**



## Daily Thinking Strip Journal

- These thinking strips provide students with high level and interactive thinking prompts as they read their books of choice during open reading. These strips will help them apply many of the high level skills that they will be practicing in your classroom.
- You can have them fill out the diary page as a reflection of their reading or if you use spiral notebooks then they can cut out a label (print on 8x10 label paper) and place into their notebooks to show you which questions they will be focusing on.
- You could give them one sheet of the labels and they must use all labels before receiving a new sheet. This will ensure they are practicing all skills and not just ones they prefer.
- You could print the half-sheet and have them do a mini-reflection as a ticket-out-of-class activity.
- Lots of ways to implement! I also left you a blank sheet of strips and labels so you can put in individual prompts or have students write their own.

## Thinking Strips for Open Reading Time

What types of character traits are you discovering about the characters in the story? How are these traits defining the type of person they are?

What events are characters going through that are going to shape their lives and affect the choices they make later in the story?

How is one character different from other characters in the story and why does the author show this difference to you? What purpose is behind showing you this difference?

What life lessons are characters learning in the story and what events are teaching them these lessons? How are these lessons affecting the characters in short and long terms?

Have you noticed any foreshadowing? This is where the author is hinting about an event that will happen later in the story. As you find foreshadowing, you may find yourself thinking... "Oh I bet this will happen." or "Oh no, I bet he will...!"

What twists in the plot occurred that you didn't see coming? Why did the author add this twist to the story? Most twists lead stories in new directions for a purpose.

What inferences have you made throughout the story based on descriptions or actions you have read about? Did any prediction you make along the way happen as you thought it would?

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The worksheet features seven horizontal green strips, each with a torn top edge, providing space for students to write their thoughts during open reading time. The strips are arranged vertically, separated by white space, and are contained within a green border.



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- Write a daily reflection of thinking strips that you found today while you were doing your open reading. What interesting connections did you make today?



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