Interpretive stage: Necessitates that the reader develops a complete understanding of the text. Readers must consider the entire work in order to respond to a question; however, students do not go beyond the pages of the text in this type of response. They are not required to connect this text to any other text or personal experience.

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| What is the main sequence of actions in the story? (Retell the story.)  int |
| What is the problem in the story? What caused the problem? Is there more than one problem?  int |
| From what point of view is the story told? (Who is telling the story?)  int |
| Who are the major characters in the story? Who are the minor characters?  int |
| How do the characters change during the story? Why?  int |
| What was the climax of the story? How could you tell that something was about to happen? What happened afterwards? (What was the most exciting/scariest part of the story?)  int |
| Describe the setting, using adjectives.  int |
| Are there any examples of personification in the story? What are they?  int |
| How did the author begin the story? Did it make you want to read more?  int |
| Does the story jump about in time? Did it flash forward or flash back?  int |

Reflective stage: Readers begin to connect knowledge from their personal backgrounds. The questions at the reflective stage require students to go beyond the written page to their own knowledge and experience. As students reflect they are making text-to-text, text-to-self and text-to-world connections.

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| Describe the way that one of the characters talks, acts, and moves.  ref |
| How are the characters conveyed? Through their actions or words? Through what others say about them? (How do you know about the characters?)  ref |

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| Can you think of a time when you acted like one of the characters? Why? How?  ref |
| What part of the story did you like best? Why?  ref |
| Do you think the characters dealt well or poorly with the problems in the story? How would you have dealt with them?  ref |
| Did any of the characters behave unexpectedly? What was unexpected, and why didn’t you expect it?  ref |

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| Have you ever been to a place like the one described in the story? How did you feel about it?  ref |

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| What is the author’s message? (Could you learn something from this story?)  ref |
| How do you feel about the author’s message? How does it relate to your own beliefs? (Do you think the author has a good message?)  ref |
| Have you read other books/stories with this same message?  ref |

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| How did you feel at the end of the story?  ref |
| Is there any character in the story that you would describe as brave/smart/foolish/etc? What did the character say or do that made you feel this way?  ref |

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| What would you change in the story?  ref |
| How would you have responded if you had been the main character in the story?  ref |
| Was there anything in the story that you wondered about? What was it?  ref |
| Have you read any other stories that are like this one?  ref |

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| Were there any descriptions, words, or phrases that you like in the story? Why did they appeal to you?  ref |

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| Are any of the characters depicted as “good” or “bad”? How does the author or illustrator get this idea across to the reader?  ref |
| Which character in the story is most unforgettable to you? Why do you like this character?  ref |
| Could this story have really happened? Why or why not?  ref |
| If you could add another character to the story, who would you add? Would the addition of this character affect the plot?  ref |

Critical stage: readers analyze and respond to the writer’s craft by standing back from the text and pondering how the piece was constructed. Students consider how an author uses certain literary elements, such as foreshadowing, to contribute to the story or how an illustrator draws a particular character to reveal or enhance a personality trait.

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| How does the author establish the setting? (How do you know about the setting?)  crit |
| Can you imagine this plot in a different setting? What is the effect of the setting on the plot? On the characters? (What would be different in the story if we changed the setting to \_\_\_\_ ?)  crit |
| Where do you think the author got the idea for the story?  crit |
| Have you ever met people like the characters in this story?  crit |
| Did the illustrations reveal anything about the characters or setting that was not written in words?  crit |
| What emotions did you see as you read the story? How did the author reveal these emotions to you?  crit |
| How do the personalities of the characters affect the plot? (How would you describe one of the characters? What if he had been/acted another way?)  crit |
| Do you thing the illustrator did a good job depicting the characters? Why or why not? Is there anything you would do differently?  crit |
| Does the author use words that help you “see” what he is writing? What are some examples of this?  crit |
| Are there any characters that could be removed without affecting the story? If so, who are they?  crit |
| How is the setting important to the plot? (Would the story be the same in another setting?)  crit |