

## How can you develop the skill of predicting?

Good readers make predictions as they read. When reading literature, you should anticipate what events might happen next. When reading informational text, you should try to predict the types of information and arguments the writer will use. Predicting will help you stay focused and will help you better comprehend what you are reading. The following steps will help you develop the skill of predicting.

**Step 1:** Make predictions about a text before reading it.

**Step 2:** Make predictions during reading.

**Step 3:** Reflect on your predictions after reading.

## Developing Skills for Predicting

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### **Step 1:** Make predictions about a text before reading it.

Before reading a text, gather information by reading the title, front and back covers, and the table of contents. Examine any pictures or illustrations. Based upon the evidence you gather, make some predictions about the content of the text. Connect what you see with things you already know.

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**Directions:** Before reading the story “Button, Button” on pages 103–111, fill in the chart on the following screens with predictions and evidence that supports your predictions.

Prediction	Evidence

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Prediction	Evidence

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Your response may look like this.

Prediction	Evidence
The story is about some kind of button. This may be a button on a shirt or a button you push.	the title
The main character will have to make an important decision.	The focus of the book is about decisions.

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Prediction	Evidence
The characters in the story will have to face the consequences of their decision.	The essential question of the cluster is <i>What are the possible consequences of our decisions?</i>
The story may involve a survey taker or salesperson who comes to the door.	the picture on page 105

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### Step 2: Make predictions during reading.

As you read the text, try to predict what will happen next. Remember, predictions should always be based upon what you have already read. Some good questions to ask include

- What do I think will happen next?
- What point will the writer make next?

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**Directions:** As you read story “Button, Button” on pages 103–111, stop at the pages listed in the chart and make a prediction. Give evidence for your prediction.

	Prediction	Evidence
Page 104 at the break		
Page 106 at the break		



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	Prediction	Evidence
Page 110 at the break		

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Your responses may look like this.

	Prediction	Evidence
Page 104 at the break	The box contains some kind of treasure.	Mr. Steward says it could be valuable and worth money.
Page 106 at the break	Norma is going to call and find out more about the button unit.	She keeps thinking and talking about the unit.

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	Prediction	Evidence
Page 110 at the break	Norma is going to push the button to get the money. Her husband is going to be mad at her.	Norma has been thinking about what they could do with the money and trying to rationalize the fact that someone is killed by emphasizing that it is someone they don't know.

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### **Step 3:** Reflect on your predictions after reading.

When you finish reading, go back and see how many of your predictions were accurate. Think about why any predictions were inaccurate.

**Directions:** Return to the predictions you made on the previous screens. Evaluate which ones were accurate and which ones were inaccurate.