

# Talking Back to Books As You Read

Here are some ways that you might jot in your notebook as you are reading.

## Infer Emotions and Traits

Notice what your characters **DO, THINK & SAY** and think about what it tell you about them!

I: \_\_\_\_\_ must feel \_\_\_\_\_  
(character) (personality trait)

I: \_\_\_\_\_ is/seems \_\_\_\_\_  
(character) (personality trait)

**Outside:** what you see on the surface

**Inside:** what is really going on inside your ch.

(use your b.k., tiny text clues & step inside the character's shoes to do this work)

## Infer Emotions and Traits Models

I: **Eddie Lee** must feel **embarrassed or sad**  
(when Jim Bud makes fun of him in front of Christy)

I: **Eddie Lee** is **sensitive and empathetic**  
(thinks about the Mama Frog's feelings)

O: Ch. agrees not to take frog eggs

I: Ch. is **realizing that E.L. is really smart & caring**

## Ask Questions

You want to understand why your characters act the way they do. Asking questions will get you beyond the surface with your characters and maybe even the people in your life!

Q: Why is \_\_\_\_\_ being \_\_\_\_\_?  
(character) (personality trait)

P:  
(prediction – use your background knowledge about the character and life in general. Step inside his/her shoes)

A:  
(Answer)

Q: How is \_\_\_\_\_ dealing with \_\_\_\_\_?  
(character) (issue or struggle)

A:  
(Use our positive ways to deal/neg. ways to deal chart)

## Ask Questions Model

Q: Why is **E.L.** being **generous and kind** to Christy?

P: Maybe he knows deep down she is nice  
Maybe he is determined to make a friend  
Maybe he's gives people multiple chances

A: (There was no text based answer this time, but sometimes there is)

Q: How is **E.L.** dealing with **others being judgmental and cruel**

A: **E.L. is brave – doesn't run away from them. Instead, he perseveres and keeps trying to make friends. He is forgiving – gives second chances.**

## Readers Talk Back to Characters

When you give advice to a character this usually signals that he/she has a problem or struggle. Use your background knowledge. Often times, your advice could be reworded as a lesson or author's message!

TB: \_\_\_\_\_ should/shouldn't  
\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

## Talk Back Models

TB: J.B. should stop lying in order to impress people because they will see right through the façade (fakeness) like Christy does. Being honest is better than lying to seem tough or cool.

TB: Christie should stick up for E.L. more when J.B. picks on him. You have to stand up for what is right, regardless of what people may think!

## Readers Notice & Jot about SHELLS

**S**truggles

**H**ints of Change

**E**motions

**L**ife Lessons (Words of Widsom)

**L**ines that answer our questions

**S**ymbols

## SHELLS

I think people are mean to E.L. because he looks and walks a bit different. The author said he "waddles" and was unaware that his face had ice cream on it. She also described his face as being a bit different. I bet people judge him by the way he looks.

## SHELLS

Ch. is starting to really see that E.L. is generous and kindhearted when he goes to get her a lilly

## SHELLS – W.O.W (words of wisdom)

"It's what's in here that counts"

It matters what is in our heart – this is what should guide how we treat others. Instead of being nice to E.L. because her mother said to, Ch. is nice because she knows in her heart that it is the right thing to do.

## Memory Moments

**Flashbacks** – is often a scene from the past that gives us important background info.

**Backstory** – important information or memories from a characters past the author tucks in quickly to help us understand the character better.

**M.M.**

**SHELL**

When \_\_\_\_\_ remembers \_\_\_\_\_, it makes  
(character) (moment)  
me think \_\_\_\_\_.  
(inference)

## Memory Moment Models

**M.M.**

When **Bobby** remembers how **Holly** came back from summer worried about her looks, it makes me think he doesn't like this change and that **Holly** may be turning into more of a girlie-girl. Bobby's being close-minded.

**M.M. (SHELL)**

When **Bobby** remembers the time with his dad, it makes me think he wishes he spent more time with him. He's sad that they aren't closer.