Grades 3-6

24 cards, each with a paragraph and reading strategy challenge

Reading Strategies Task Cards

✓ 6 Different Reading Strategies
✓ Fiction and Nonfiction (Informational Text)
✓ Great for Test Prep and Literacy Centers.

by Rachel Lynette
Use this set of free reading strategy task cards to help your students practice these important skills. Students can answer on notebook paper and use the included recording sheet to keep track of the cards they have completed. Another option is to use these orally in small groups. A suggested answer key is included (answers for most of these cards are subjective, so the answer key is only offered as a guide). A challenge card which can be used with any other card in the set is also included to extend the learning.

This set was created by combining cards from six other reading strategy task card sets. However, the content for each card in this set is new, so if you own any of the other sets, you do not need to worry about repeating the same content. Only the design of the cards is the same. I created this set so that those who already have the other sets could use this set for extra reinforcement or assessment, and so that those who do not own them could give them a try for free. If you would like to purchase one or more of the original sets, you will find links at the end of the document.

These cards will look best in color, but will also print out fine in grayscale. Simply print and cut along the guidelines. Laminate and use them again and again. Alternatively, you could print on cardstock. It works well to keep them in a baggie. Another option is to hole-punch a corner of each card and put them all on a ring.

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People who wanted to travel from the east to settle in the west in the mid 1800s traveled on the Oregon Trail in wagon trains. The trail started in Iowa and Missouri and stretched about 2,000 miles (3,220 km) to Oregon. Over 50,000 settlers made this long and dangerous journey. Not everyone who started the journey made it to Oregon. Many died from illness, accidents, and bad weather.

What is the author's purpose? How do you know?

"As it is now time for my son, the prince, to marry, we shall hold a great contest to find the strongest and bravest princess in all the kingdom," announced the king.

Prince Harold sighed. He didn’t care who won the contest. He didn’t want to get married. He wanted to train unicorns.

What is the author's purpose? How do you know?

Marsupials are a type of mammal. Female marsupials have a pocket that they use for carrying and protecting their babies. Most marsupials, such as kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, and koalas live in Australia. The only marsupial native to North America is the opossum.

What is the author's purpose? How do you know?

I know you are super busy, but can you please help me with the math homework today? You are so good at math, and I am really having trouble. Plus if you help me today, I will help you with your book report next week. Also, my mom made these totally yummy cookies today and we can have some while we are working.

What is the author's purpose? How do you know?
Kyle was riding his bike home when a squirrel suddenly ran right in front of him. Kyle slammed on his brakes to avoid hitting the squirrel and lost control of his bike. He ended up crashing onto the side of the path. The fall hurt a lot and Kyle got pretty scraped up. Both knees and his arm were bleeding. But he didn’t break anything and he hadn’t hit the squirrel!

What does this story remind you of from your own life?

Zoe woke up in the middle of the night. She’d had a bad nightmare. She was so afraid that she could not fall back asleep. Zoe got out of bed and made her way through the dark hall to her big sister's bedroom. Her sister sighed sleepily when Zoe crawled in beside her. Zoe was asleep in just a few minutes.

What does this story remind you of from something else that you have read?

One hot summer day, Amber decided to have a lemonade stand. She set up her stand and sold her lemonade for 25¢ a cup. Within an hour, she was $5.00 richer and out of lemonade. The next day, Amber made more lemonade and raised the price to 50¢. By the end of the day, Amber had only sold three cups!

What does this story remind you of from the real world?
Giant river otters live in South America. Families of giant river otters live in dens that they dig into the banks of rivers and lakes. Mother river otters give birth to their babies in their dens. Baby river otters are called cubs. Cubs are born blind and helpless. They do not leave the den until they are about two months old.

The tallest tree in the world is a giant redwood located in Humboldt Redwoods State Park in Northern California. This tree is 380 feet (116 m) tall. That's more than twice as tall as the Statue of Liberty! Only a few people know exactly where this tree is. The people who discovered it have kept it a secret so that people will not damage it.

After traveling for more than eight months through space, Curiosity, the NASA land rover, landed on the planet Mars, on August 5, 2012. Curiosity has six wheels and seventeen cameras, as well as other research equipment. Its mission is to explore the planet and send the information it gathers back to Earth.

In 1803, the United States bought the Louisiana Territory from France. The Louisiana Territory stretched from the Mississippi River all the way to the Rocky Mountains. This purchase more than doubled the size of the United States. Over the next ninety years, thirteen new states would be carved from this land.
13. Mom made sandwiches and put them into the basket, along with some fruit and chips. Dad grabbed the big checkered blanket and Robby got the Frisbee. Then the whole family piled into the car and headed out.

Where was the family going?
What makes you think so?

14. Edward was running as fast as he could. He could hear Jacob's footsteps close behind him. He tried to run faster, but it was no use. Within seconds, Jacob was by his side, and then ahead of him. A moment later both boys collapsed under the old oak tree in front of the school.

What were Edward and Jacob doing?
Why do you think so?

15. Jake and Tim sat quietly next to each other, each thinking his own thoughts. Suddenly, the pole Jake was holding loosely in his hands jerked so hard, he nearly dropped it.

"You got one!" exclaimed Tim excitedly. "Reel him in slowly."

What did Jake have?
How do you know?

16. Callie picked herself off the pavement and checked herself over for injuries. No blood, and nothing seemed to be broken. Good thing she was wearing her pads and helmet. She walked over to the skateboard that was laying upside down a few feet away, popped it right side-up with her foot, and rode away.

Why was Callie on the pavement?
How do you know?
Cody checked his watch again. Where was the train? It was already eleven minutes late. He had waited so long for this moment...his whole life really, and now he had to wait even longer. Someone near him pointed down the track. The train was finally coming! In a few minutes, Cody would meet his father for the very first time.

What questions could you ask about this paragraph?

The abyss is the name for the deepest part of the ocean. The abyss is over 13,000 feet (23,960 m) from the surface. The water is very cold there - almost freezing. Sunlight does not reach that deep, so it is also completely dark. Food is scarce. Animals that live in the abyss have adapted to this harsh environment.

What questions could you ask about this paragraph?

An adult human brain only weighs about 3 pounds (1.4 kg) and is about the size of a cantaloupe. About 20% of the blood that is pumped through the heart goes to the brain. Some parts of the brain control things that you don’t normally think about, like breathing and digestion. Other parts control a person’s ability to speak and to think.

What questions could you ask about this paragraph?

Dalia sat in her seat, more scared than she had ever been in her life. The motor was so loud that everyone had to shout. Her eyes were glued to the open door where one after another, her classmates had all jumped into the clear, blue sky. She could feel the weight of the parachute on her back as she slowly walked to the door to take her turn.

What questions could you ask about this paragraph?
21

Jenna was lying outside in the sun. She knew she should put some sun block on, but the sun felt so good on her back that she did not want to move. She told herself that she would get the sun block in five minutes. Within three minutes, Jenna had fallen asleep.

What will happen next?
What makes you think so?

22

Ben filled the tub with warm water. He got the special shampoo and put it on the side of the tub. Then he got a towel.

Ben left the bathroom and went to the backyard. "Here Rascal," he called. "I have a surprise for you!"

What is Rascal's surprise?
How do you know?

23

Mom was making a sour face as she handed the baby to Dad and said, "Your turn. I did it last time."

Dad took the baby and headed off to the nursery.

What will Dad do next?
How do you know?

24

It was 9:05. The school bell had already rung and Mrs. Jamison had just finished taking attendance. All of the students in the class stood up and put their right hands on their chests.

What will happen next?
What makes you think so?
# Reading Strategy Task Cards Recording Sheet

Use this chart to keep track of the Reading Strategy Task Cards that you have completed. Remember to have your teacher initial or stamp the ✓ column.

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**Challenge Card**

Is the passage on the card fiction or nonfiction (informational). How do you know?
The family is going on a picnic.

Edward and Jacob were having a race.

Jake had a fish on his fishing pole line.

Callie had fallen off her skateboard.

Why was Dalia learning to skydive? What would happen if she did not jump?

Why had Cody never met his dad? Why was Cody meeting his dad now?

What animals live in the abyss? How do the animals find food in the dark?

Why does the brain need so much blood? Which part of the brain is most important?

In 1803 the US doubled its size by purchasing the Louisiana Territory.

Giant river otter cubs are born in dens in South America.

At 380 feet, the world's tallest tree is a redwood in California.

The land rover, Curiosity, landed on Mars and will explore the planet.

Jenna will get a sunburn.

Rascal (the dog) is going to get a bath.

Dad will change the baby's diaper.

The class will say the Pledge of Allegiance.
Thank you so much for downloading this product! You can get more Task Cards for a variety of subjects here:  http://bit.ly/sZYtu1

If you would like more cards like the ones in this set, please follow the links below.