Contents

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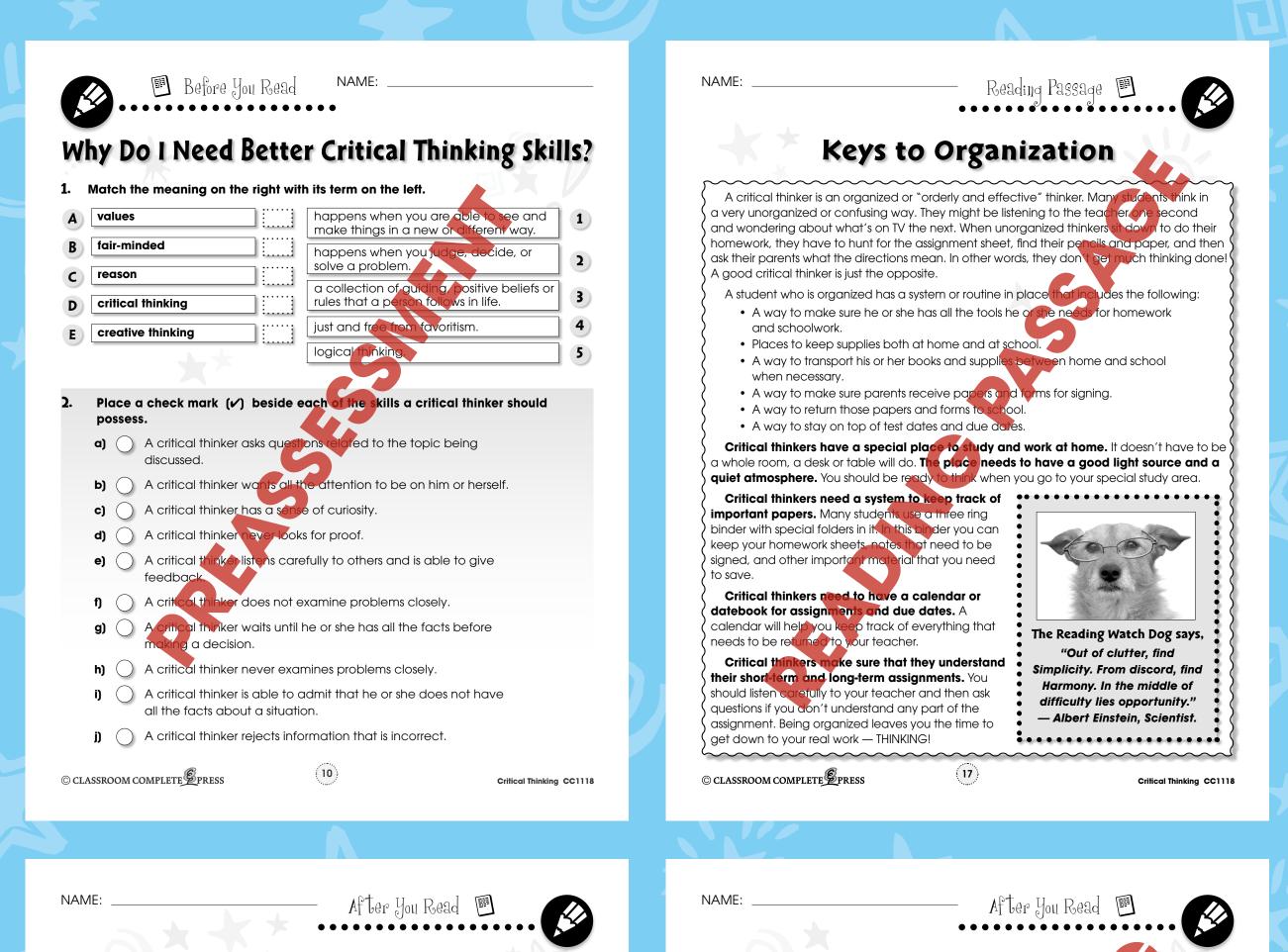
- Go to our website: **www.classroomcompletepress.com/bonus**
- Enter item CC1118
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Panel 1 (top-left)

Why Do I Need Better Critical Thinking Skills?

1. Match the meaning on the right with its term on the left.

A	values	::::	happens when you are able to see and make things in a new or different way.	**1**
B	fair-minded	::::	happens when you judge, decide, or solve a problem.	**2**
C	reason	::::	a collection of guiding, positive beliefs or rules that a person follows in life.	**3**
D	critical thinking	::::	just and free from favoritism.	**4**
E	creative thinking	::::	logical thinking.	**5**

2. Place a check mark (✔) beside each of the skills a critical thinker should possess.

a) ◯ A critical thinker asks questions related to the topic being discussed.

b) ◯ A critical thinker wants all the attention to be on him or herself.

c) ◯ A critical thinker has a sense of curiosity.

d) ◯ A critical thinker never looks for proof.

e) ◯ A critical thinker listens carefully to others and is able to give feedback.

f) ◯ A critical thinker does not examine problems closely.

g) ◯ A critical thinker waits until he or she has all the facts before making a decision.

h) ◯ A critical thinker never examines problems closely.

i) ◯ A critical thinker is able to admit that he or she does not have all the facts about a situation.

j) ◯ A critical thinker rejects information that is incorrect.

Panel 2 (top-right)

Keys to Organization

A critical thinker is an organized or "orderly and effective" thinker. Many students think in a very unorganized or confusing way. They might be listening to the teacher one second and wondering about what's on TV the next. When unorganized thinkers sit down to do their homework, they have to hunt for the assignment sheet, find their pencils and paper, and then ask their parents what the directions mean. In other words, they don't get much thinking done! A good critical thinker is just the opposite.

A student who is organized has a system or routine in place that includes the following:

- A way to make sure he or she has all the tools he or she needs for homework and schoolwork.
- Places to keep supplies both at home and at school.
- A way to transport his or her books and supplies between home and school when necessary.
- A way to make sure parents receive papers and forms for signing.
- A way to return those papers and forms to school.
- A way to stay on top of test dates and due dates.

Critical thinkers have a special place to study and work at home. It doesn't have to be a whole room, a desk or table will do. **The place needs to have a good light source and a quiet atmosphere.** You should be ready to think when you go to your special study area.

Critical thinkers need a system to keep track of important papers. Many students use a three ring binder with special folders in it. In this binder you can keep your homework sheets, notes that need to be signed, and other important material that you need to save.

Critical thinkers need to have a calendar or datebook for assignments and due dates. A calendar will help you keep track of everything that needs to be returned to your teacher.

Critical thinkers make sure that they understand their short-term and long-term assignments. You should listen carefully to your teacher and then ask questions if you don't understand any part of the assignment. Being organized leaves you the time to get down to your real work — THINKING!

The Reading Watch Dog says,
"Out of clutter, find Simplicity. From discord, find Harmony. In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."
— Albert Einstein, Scientist.

Panel 3 (bottom-left)

Keys to Problem Solving (Part One)

1. Explain what the following steps in critical problem solving mean. (Use complete sentences.)

a) Define the problem and set a goal for change.

_____

b) Brainstorm possible solutions or answers.

_____

c) Evaluate all the possible solutions.

_____

2. In complete sentences, explain how you would solve each of the following problems. Remember, your goal is to be as independent as possible, but don't be afraid to ask for help.

a) There are leaves all over your front yard. Dad left $20 and said that you should solve the problem. What will you do?

_____

b) You are in the house alone and you have just cut your finger. The blood is dripping onto the floor. What will you do to solve the problem?

_____

c) You are in your homeroom and you realize that you have ripped the seat out of your pants. What will you do to solve this problem?

_____

Panel 4 (bottom-right)

Keys to Being a Critical Thinker

1. Write a paragraph of at least five sentences describing yourself as a critical thinker. Use the qualities we discussed on the previous page as a guide for thinking.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False if it's false.

a) A good critical thinker knows the difference between facts and opinions.

True   **False**

b) A good critical thinker does not take time to find out whether information is true or not.

True   **False**

c) A good critical thinker will try to predict the outcome or results of actions or plans.

True   **False**

d) A good critical thinker is always concerned with finding out the truth.

True   **False**

e) A good critical thinker does not take the time to give feedback to other people.

True   **False**

f) A good critical thinker compares the similarities and differences of concepts.

True   **False**
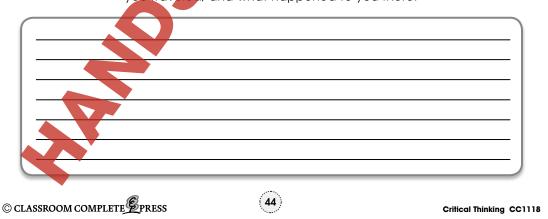
✏️ 📓 Writing Task #3

Everyone loves a mystery and everyone will certainly love yours! Use all of your critical thinking and creative skills to turn the following story prompt into a spine-chilling mystery. Good luck!
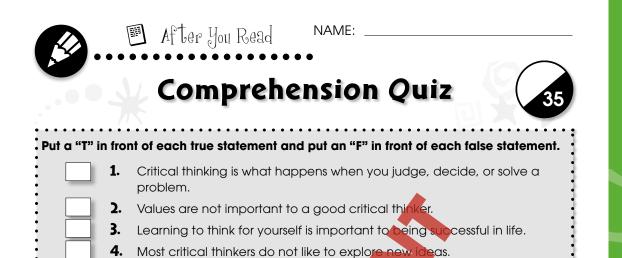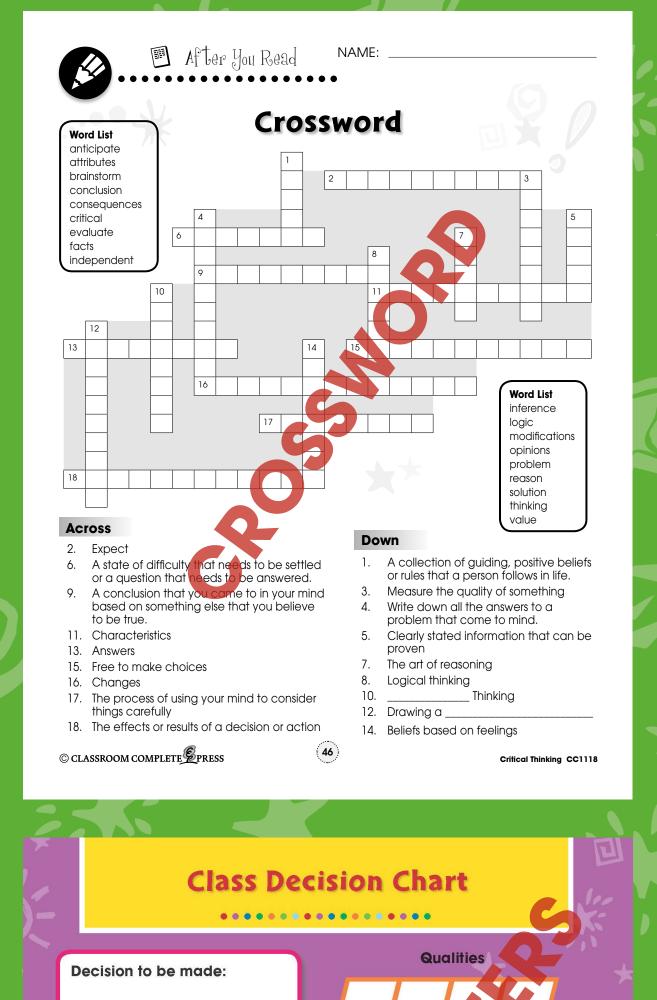
The Case of the Holiday Party
The house was quiet the night before our big holiday party. I went to check on the decorations when I saw that all the presents were gone.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

✏️ 📓 Writing Task #4

Now it's time to take yourself and all of your critical thinking and writing skills into a time machine! This time machine can travel forward or backward. Be sure to tell how you got the machine, the time and place to which you traveled, and what happened to you there.
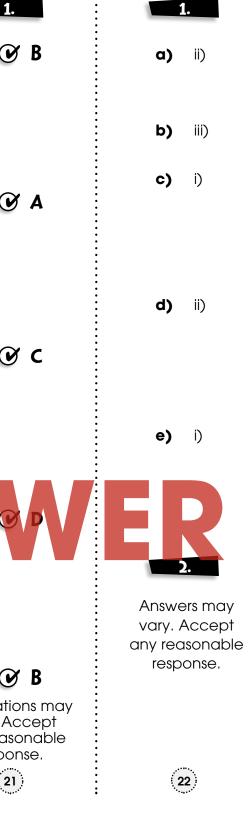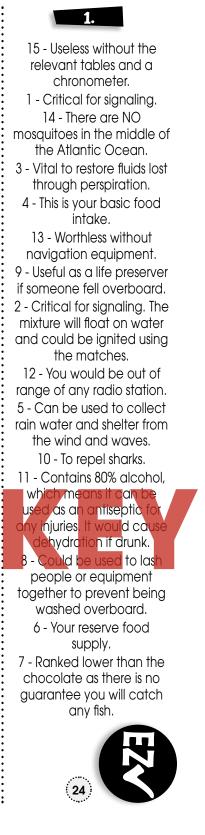
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

✏️ 📓 After You Read　　NAME: _____

Crossword

Word List
anticipate
attributes
brainstorm
conclusion
consequences
critical
evaluate
facts
independent

Word List
inference
logic
modifications
opinions
problem
reason
solution
thinking
value

Across
2. Expect
6. A state of difficulty that needs to be settled or a question that needs to be answered.
9. A conclusion that you come to in your mind based on something else that you believe to be true.
11. Characteristics
13. Answers
15. Free to make choices
16. Changes
17. The process of using your mind to consider things carefully
18. The effects or results of a decision or action

Down
1. A collection of guiding, positive beliefs or rules that a person follows in life.
3. Measure the quality of something
4. Write down all the answers to a problem that come to mind.
5. Clearly stated information that can be proven
7. The art of reasoning
8. Logical thinking
10. _____ Thinking
12. Drawing a _____
14. Beliefs based on feelings

📄 After You Read　　NAME: _____

Comprehension Quiz

35

Put a "T" in front of each true statement and put an "F" in front of each false statement.

☐ 1. Critical thinking is what happens when you judge, decide, or solve a problem.
☐ 2. Values are not important to a good critical thinker.
☐ 3. Learning to think for yourself is important to being successful in life.
☐ 4. Most critical thinkers do not like to explore new ideas.
☐ 5. Reason is logical thinking.
☐ 6. Critical thinkers are dependent thinkers.
☐ 7. A good independent critical thinker is also a good listener.
☐ 8. Honesty is not very important to good critical thinkers.
☐ 9. An independent thinker knows it's better to make mistakes than to accept someone else's opinions about everything in life.
☐ 10. Organized means "orderly and effective."

10

Write the answers to the following questions.

11. What is an inference?
_____ **1**

12. What is the difference between a fact and an opinion? Give an example of a fact and an example of an opinion.
_____ **4**

13. What does the following statement mean? "A good critical thinker anticipates consequences."
_____ **2**

14. What are three organization tips that good critical thinkers can use?
_____ **3**

SUBTOTAL:　/20

Class Decision Chart

Decision to be made:

Qualities

Possible Solutions　　**Score**

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.

Final decision:

Keys to Inferences

1. (Circle) the word True if the statement is true. (Circle) the word False if it's false.

a) An inference is a conclusion you come to in your mind based on something else that you believe to be true.

    True   **False**

b) The things that you believe to be <u>not true</u> are called your assumptions.

    True   **False**

c) Facts are clearly stated information that can be proven.

    True   **False**

d) Beliefs that are only based on feelings are called hunches.

    True   **False**

e) A sentence using the words, "probably" and "I think" is most likely a fact.

    True   **False**

2. Put an "F" in front of each FACT and put an "O" in front of each OPINION.

a) ☐ My dad drives a red convertible.

b) ☐ It's the most beautiful car in our neighborhood.

c) ☐ All the kids believe that I am the luckiest person in the world!

d) ☐ The car is three years old.

e) ☐ It cost $21,000.

⑲

EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY

1.

a) True

b) False

c) True

d) False

e) False

2.

a) F

b) O

c) O

d) F

e) F

⑲

1.

i) ☑ B

ii) ☑ A

iii) ☑ C

iv) ☑ D

v) ☑ B

Explanations may vary. Accept any reasonable response.

㉑

1.

a) ii)

b) iii)

c) i)

d) ii)

e) i)

2.

Answers may vary. Accept any reasonable response.

㉒

1.

15 - Useless without the relevant tables and a chronometer.

1 - Critical for signaling.

14 - There are NO mosquitoes in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

3 - Vital to restore fluids lost through perspiration.

4 - This is your basic food intake.

13 - Worthless without navigation equipment.

9 - Useful as a life preserver if someone fell overboard.

2 - Critical for signaling. The mixture will float on water and could be ignited using the matches.

12 - You would be out of range of any radio station.

5 - Can be used to collect rain water and shelter from the wind and waves.

10 - To repel sharks.

11 - Contains 80% alcohol, which means it can be used as an antiseptic for any injuries. It would cause dehydration if drunk.

8 - Could be used to lash people or equipment together to prevent being washed overboard.

6 - Your reserve food supply.

7 - Ranked lower than the chocolate as there is no guarantee you will catch any fish.

㉔

EZY