



Teacher Guide



Our resource has been created for ease of use by both **TEACHERS** and **STUDENTS** alike.

Introduction

Identifying and using critical thinking skills is a daunting task facing most elementary teachers today. Our resource was written with this very purpose in mind. Here you will find critical thinking defined as, “what happens when you judge, decide, or solve a problem.” Many of the critical thinking skills such as, 1) independent thinking, 2) organization, 3) making inferences, 4) anticipating consequences, 5) recognizing valid and invalid arguments, and 6) problem solving are defined and used in thought provoking exercises throughout the book. Rather than claim to be a complete course in the process of critical thinking, this workbook is just the beginning of a critical thinking journey for students that will continue through college and into adulthood.



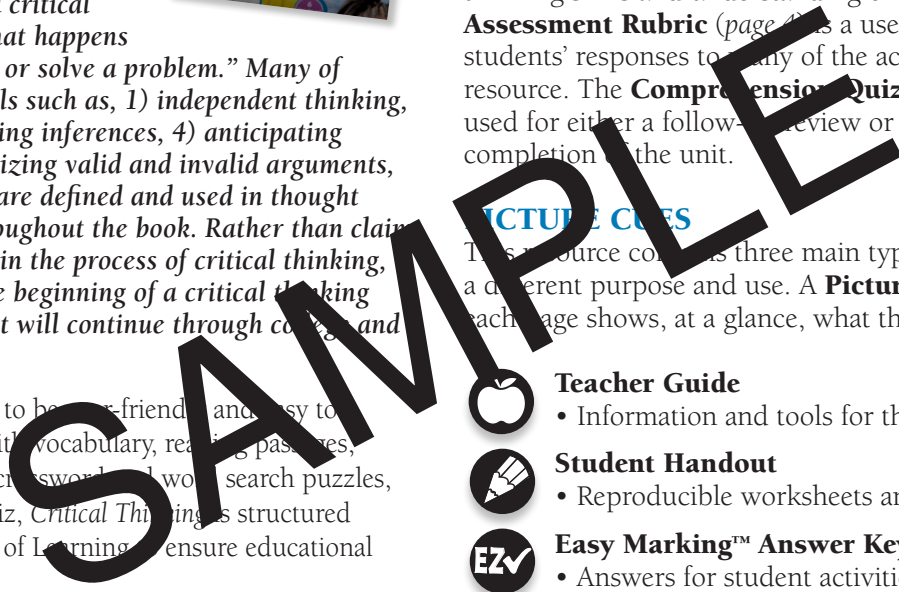
- The **AFTER YOU READ** activities check students’ comprehension of the concepts presented in the reading passage and extend their learning. Students are asked to give thoughtful consideration of the reading passage through creative and evaluative short-answer questions, research, and extension activities.

Writing Tasks are included to further develop students’ thinking skills and understanding of the concepts. The **Assessment Rubric** (page 47) is a useful tool for evaluating students’ responses to many of the activities in our resource. The **Comprehension Quiz** (page 48) can be used for either a follow-up review or assessment at the completion of the unit.

PICTURE CUES

This resource comes in three main types of pages, each with a different purpose and use. A **Picture Cue** at the top of each page shows, at a glance, what the page is for.

Our resource is designed to be user-friendly and easy to understand. Complete with vocabulary, reading passages, work sheets, overheads, crossword and word search puzzles, and a comprehension quiz, *Critical Thinking* is structured using Bloom’s Taxonomy of Learning to ensure educational appropriateness.



Teacher Guide

- Information and tools for the teacher



Student Handout

- Reproducible worksheets and activities



Easy Marking™ Answer Key

- Answers for student activities

How Is Our Resource Organized?

STUDENT HANDOUTS

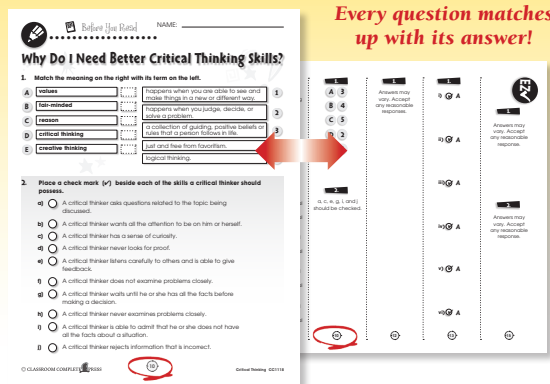
Reading passages and activities (in the form of reproducible worksheets) make up the majority of our resource. The reading passages present important grade-appropriate information and concepts related to the topic. Embedded in each passage are one or more questions that ensure students understand what they have read.

For each reading passage there are **BEFORE YOU READ** activities and **AFTER YOU READ** activities.

- The **BEFORE YOU READ** activities prepare students for reading by setting a purpose for reading. They stimulate background knowledge and experience, and guide students to make connections between what they know and what they will learn. Important concepts and vocabulary from the chapters are also presented.

EASY MARKING™ ANSWER KEY

Marking students’ worksheets is fast and easy with this **Answer Key**. Answers are listed in columns – just line up the column with its corresponding worksheet, as shown, and see how every question matches up with its answer!



Every question matches up with its answer!



Keys to Being a Critical Thinker

1. Place a check mark (✓) next to each statement that best describes a critical thinker.

- a) Another student just told Ken that their teacher, Mrs. Griffin, is moving next week. Ken did not say a word to anyone before he went to Mrs. Griffin to find out the facts about her move. Mrs. Griffin tells Ken that she has decided to move to a new house, but she is not going to change jobs.
- b) Beth is confused. Her teacher is explaining how to work a new type of math problem and Beth is having trouble understanding her. When the teacher asks if there are any questions, Beth just sits there and doesn't raise her hand. She is too embarrassed to admit that she doesn't understand.
- c) Julio and Armand love the New York Yankees. They like to tell people that the Yankees have won more games than any other Major League team. One day, Tina and Lori show them the web site, <http://www.baseball-reference.com/teams>, which says that the San Francisco Giants have won the most games in the Major League. The boys think about this fact and decide that even though they love the Yankees, they won't brag about them being the "winning-est team" of all time again.
- d) Nancy's little sister always asks Nancy's opinion about what she wears. Today Nancy is studying for a big test in social studies and her sister runs into her room. She says, "How do I look?" Nancy tells her she looks just fine without raising her eyes from the book.
- e) Jack's teacher just announced that space scientists have just discovered a new planet in the solar system. Jack just keeps reading his library book because he is not curious about new discoveries in science.
- f) Jenna is trying to persuade her friends to spend the night at her house. The girls are having trouble making up their minds because another friend is having a big skating party that night. Finally, Jenna tells them that her mom will buy them new outfits if they come to her sleep-over. The trouble is that Jenna's mom doesn't have enough money to buy clothes for all the girls.

2. Place a check mark (✓) next to each quality that a good critical thinker should possess.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| a) <input type="radio"/> honesty | b) <input type="radio"/> beauty | c) <input type="radio"/> curiosity |
| d) <input type="radio"/> dependability | e) <input type="radio"/> quick-tempered | f) <input type="radio"/> fair-mindedness |
| g) <input type="radio"/> inattentive | h) <input type="radio"/> disorganized and messy | |



Comprehension Quiz

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

- 15. People need to eat food in order to survive.
- 16. The best foods to eat are green beans and corn on the cob.
- 17. We saw the most exciting adventure movie in the world last night!
- 18. The movie received excellent reviews from the critics.
- 19. Everyone needs to read a good mystery book about once a month.



Circle the cause and underline the effect in each statement below.

- 20. It was raining so I brought my red umbrella with me.
- 21. Because the truck was out of gas it would not start when I tried the ignition.
- 22. I get good grades in English because it is my favorite subject.
- 23. Marie is a great pianist because she practices three hours a day!
- 24. I had to reboot my computer because the screen froze.



Complete the following graphic organizer by filling in the five parts of the critical problem-solving process.

THE CRITICAL PROBLEM-SOLVING PROCESS

25. The five steps in the critical problem solving process are:
- 1: _____
 - 2: _____
 - 3: _____
 - 4: _____
 - 5: _____



SUBTOTAL: /15

Prediction With Evidence



Name: _____ Date: _____

I predict that:

Evidence #1

Source:

Evidence #2

Source:

Evidence #3

Source:

Evidence #4

Source:

Evidence #5

Source:

SAMPLE