



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.



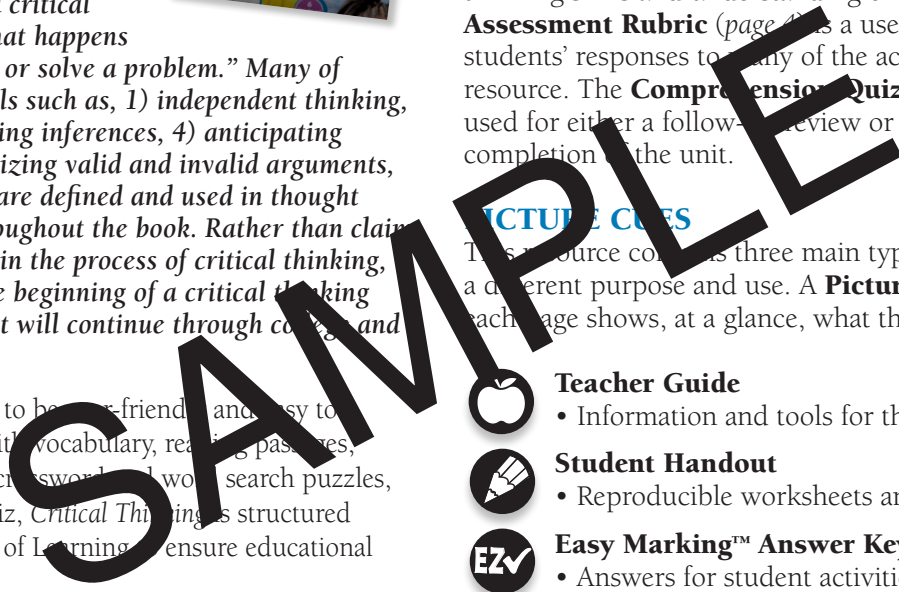
- The **AFTER YOU READ** activities check students’ comprehension of the concepts presented in the reading passage and extend their learning. Students are asked to give thoughtful consideration of the reading passage through creative and evaluative short-answer questions, research, and extension activities.

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

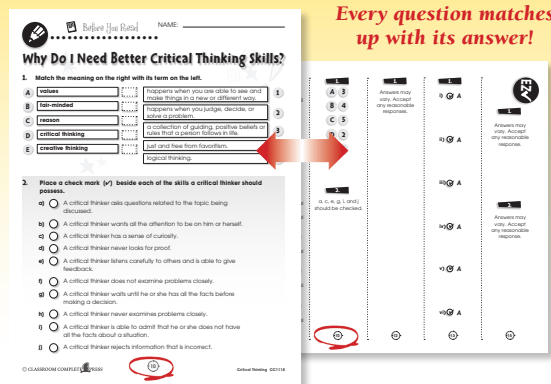
Reading passages and activities (in the form of reproducible worksheets) make up the majority of our resource. The reading passages present important grade-appropriate information and concepts related to the topic. Embedded in each passage are one or more questions that ensure students understand what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

NAME: _____



Keys to Using Critical Thinking Skills to Have Fun

Use your critical thinking skills to solve each of these easy puzzles.

1. Answer quickly. Starting with an empty barrel, which happens first?

- a) 2/3 full
- b) 1/4 empty
- c) 1/2 full
- d) 3/4 empty

2. **QUESTION:** I have many feathers to help me fly. I have a body and head, but I'm not alive. It is your strength which determines how far I go. You can hold me in your hand, but I'm never thrown. What am I?

3. This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so plain you would think nothing is wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is unusual though. Study it, and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out. Try to do so without any coaching!

4. **QUESTION:** You are walking through a field, and you find something to eat. It doesn't have bones, and it doesn't have meat. You pick it up and put it into your pocket. You take it home and put it on a shelf, but 3 days later it walks away. What is it?

5. A man was outside taking a walk when it began to rain. He did not have an umbrella and he wasn't wearing a hat. His clothes were soaked, yet not a single hair on his head got wet. How could this happen?

Translate these old proverbs (feel free to use your dictionary):

6. "A vessel under optical supervision never reaches the temperature of 212 degrees F (100 degrees C)."

7. "Taciturnity is aurous."



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