



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.



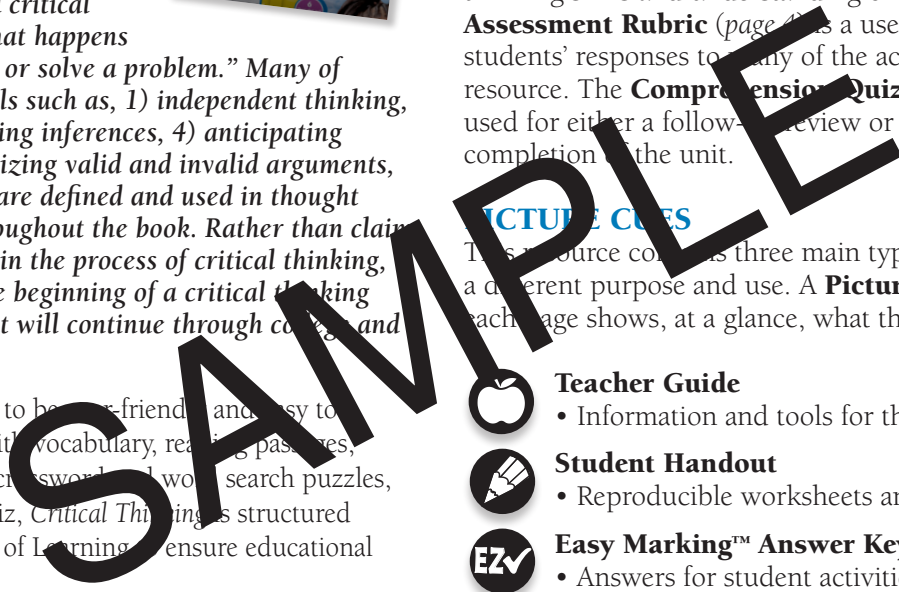
- The **AFTER YOU READ** activities check students’ comprehension of the concepts presented in the reading passage and extend their learning. Students are asked to give thoughtful consideration of the reading passage through creative and evaluative short-answer questions, research, and extension activities.

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

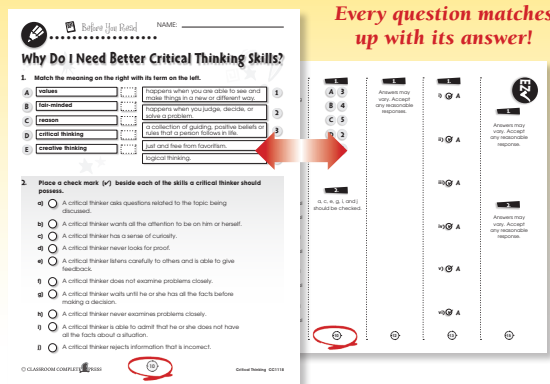
Reading passages and activities (in the form of reproducible worksheets) make up the majority of our resource. The reading passages present important grade-appropriate information and concepts related to the topic. Embedded in each passage are one or more questions that ensure students understand what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

1. Reread the article on page 14 about “Keys to Independent Thinking” and then list at least four qualities that most independent thinkers have.

All independent thinkers:

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____

2. On your classroom or home computer, go to <http://www.biography.com/bio4kids/index.jsp>. Choose one person from the list below, click on “Meet the People” and find and read that person’s biography. Then list as many examples of that person’s critical or independent thinking as you can find.

Albert Einstein Amelie Earhart Barack Obama Benjamin Franklin J.K. Rowling
 Frida Kahlo Davy Crockett Crista McAuliffe Babe Ruth Paul Revere

Person’s Name _____

Examples of his/her independent thinking: *(Use complete sentences)*



Comprehension Quiz

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 opinion about everything in life.
- 10. Organized means "clearly and effectively."



Write the answers to the following questions.

11. What is an inference?



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



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



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



SUBTOTAL: /20

Class Decision Chart



Decision to be made:

Qualities

Possible Solutions

Score

|--|--|--|--|--|

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

SAMPLE

Final decision: