



# Keys to Asking Questions (Part Two)

- 1. Pretend that you are the attorney who is trying to prove that Alexander Wolf is guilty of murdering two of the three little pigs. Read his testimony below. Then make up at least one of each of the four kinds of critical thinking questions about it. Write your questions in the space provided below.**

**Here is Wolf's testimony:**

"Everybody thinks they know the story of the Three Little Pigs. But I'll let you in on a little secret. Nobody knows the real story, because nobody has ever heard my side of the story. The real story is about a sneeze and a cup of sugar.

**THIS IS THE REAL STORY.**

A few weeks ago, I was making a birthday cake for my dear old granny. I had a terrible sneezing cold. I ran out of sugar. So I walked down the street to ask my neighbor for a cup of sugar. Now this neighbor was a pig. And he wasn't too bright either. He had built his whole house out of straw. Can you believe it? So of course the minute I knocked on the door, it fell right in. I didn't want to just walk into someone else's house. So I called, "Little Pig, Little Pig, are you in?" No answer. I was just about to go home without the cup of sugar for my dear old granny's birthday cake.

That's when my nose started to itch. I felt a sneeze coming on. Well I huffed. And I snuffed. And I sneezed a great sneeze.

And you know what? That straw house fell down. And right in the middle of the pile of straw was the First Little Pig — dead as a doornail. He had been home the whole time. It seemed like a shame to leave a perfectly good ham dinner lying there in the straw. So I ate it up. I was feeling a little better. But I still didn't have my cup of sugar. So I went to the next neighbor's house. This neighbor was the First Little Pig's brother. He was a little smarter, but not much. He had built his house of sticks. I rang the bell on the stick house. Nobody answered. I called, "Mr. Pig, Mr. Pig, are you in?" He yelled back. "Go away wolf. You can't come in. I'm shaving the hairs on my chinny-chin-chin."

I had just grabbed the doorknob when I felt another sneeze coming on. I huffed. And I snuffed. And I tried to cover my mouth, but I sneezed a great sneeze.

And you are not going to believe this, but the pig's house fell down just like his brother's. When the dust cleared, there was the Second Little Pig — dead as a doornail. Wolf's honor. Now you know food will spoil if you just leave it out in the open. So I did the only thing there was to do. I had dinner again. Think of it as a second helping. I was getting awfully full. But my cold was feeling a little better. And I still didn't have that cup of sugar for my dear old granny's birthday cake.

I went to the next house. This pig was the First and Second Little Pig's brother. He must have been the brains of the family. He had built his house of bricks. I knocked on the brick house. No answer. I called, "Mr. Pig, Mr. Pig, are you in?" And do you know what that rude little porker answered? "Get out of here, Wolf. Don't bother me again."

Talk about impolite! He probably had a whole sack full of sugar. And he wouldn't give me even one little cup for my dear sweet old granny's birthday cake. What a pig!

I was just about to go home and maybe make a nice birthday card instead of a cake, when I felt my cold coming on. I huffed And I snuffed. And I sneezed once again.

Then the Third Little Pig yelled, "And your old granny can sit on a pin!" Now I'm usually a pretty calm fellow. But when somebody talks about my granny like that, I go a little crazy. When the police drove up, of course I was trying to break down this Pig's door. And the whole time I was huffing and puffing and sneezing and making a real scene. The rest as they say is history.

- a) Getting the Facts question (5 Ws + H): \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Evaluating the Facts question (Are the facts related to the question?): \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Drawing a Conclusion Using Logic question (Is the answer logical? Does it make sense?): \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Evaluating Conclusions question: \_\_\_\_\_



# Keys to Being a Critical Thinker

You have studied many of the things you must *do* to be a critical thinker. Now it is time to talk about some of the **attributes or characteristics that critical thinkers have**:

- A critical thinker is a “question asker.”
- A critical thinker is able to admit when he or she does not understand something.
- A critical thinker is curious (eager to know things) about life.
- A critical thinker is interested in finding new solutions.
- A critical thinker listens carefully to others and gives them feedback.
- A critical thinker knows that critical thinking is a lifelong process.
- A critical thinker waits to make a judgment until he or she has considered all the facts.
- A critical thinker looks for evidence to support his or her theories and beliefs.
- A critical thinker looks for proof.
- A critical thinker changes his or her opinions when other facts are found.
- A critical thinker recognizes when information is incorrect or not related to the problem at hand.

**There are many benefits or rewards for being a critical thinker.** You will find that other students will begin to look to you as a leader. They will want to know what you think about situations and events. Your opinion will become important to them because they have learned that you take the time to consider the facts and then come to a decision. Your friends and classmates will soon learn that you are honest with them and yourself. They will also find that you are not the kind of person who can be manipulated or controlled by the actions of others. All in all, being a critical thinker is a very cool thing to be!



**The Reading Watch Dog says,  
“Out of the questions of  
students come most of the  
world’s creative ideas and  
discoveries.”**



### 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.

Blank writing lines for the story response.



### 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.

Blank writing lines for the story response.