



Pontifical Mission
Educational and
Cultural Center
مركز البعثة البابوية التعليمية والثقافية

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT: Reading Comprehension and Analysis

➤ What is Reading Comprehension?

Reading comprehension means **understanding** what you read. It's more than just reading words—it's about **thinking** about the meaning of the text and **connecting** it to what you already know.

➤ Why Is It Important? / Helpful Strategies for Understanding / Improving Language and Vocabulary

As you grow, you read **not just to sound out words**, but to **learn new information**. This means:

- Reading helps in **learning new things** and **building vocabulary and word recognition skills**. **Look for keywords** and reread them to understand meaning. Practice **new words** you find in reading.
- Understanding stories and texts helps you doing well in **every subject**. **Think out loud**—talk through your thoughts as you read. If you don't understand a word, try to figure it out using **context clues**. Practicing **oral language** (speaking and listening clearly)
- You can be great at reading words, but still need help in **understanding the meaning**. **Talk to a partner: teacher/classmates/parents/siblings/friends** about the story to hear other ideas and clarify confusion. Use good **spoken grammar** when discussing what you've read. Reading more and more challenging texts

➤ Key Comprehension Skills

To become strong readers, practice these skills:

1. Main Character

Ask yourself questions while reading: *Who?*

2. Setting

When and where?

3. Summarize the Main Idea

Tell what the story or passage is mostly about using your own words. Sequencing of events.

4. Conflict

What is the problem about?

5. Climax

Picture the most important/exciting scenes or events.

6. Resolution

How is the problem solved?

7. Make Inferences

How would you conclude/end the story?

STORY STRUCTURE BASICS – Points for the 2nd & Final Rounds

Understanding how stories are built helps with comprehension:

(1.) CHARACTER(S) – 15 pts / 50 pts.

(Write the character(s) by name, by role and by description in a paragraph form using your own words)

a) By NAME

- e. g. : The main character is Cinderella.

b) By ROLE

- e.g.: She is one of the characters: a hero/villain/helper

c) By DESCRIPTION

- e.g.: She is treated as a servant by her aunt and cousins in their household...

EXAMPLE: Cinderella is the main character. She is treated badly by her stepmother and stepsisters.

(2.) SETTING – 15 pts. / 50 pts.

(Write the place and time: i.e. when and where it's taking place. Provide and write as well the atmosphere, social conditions and weather if they are mentioned in the story)

a) TIME: When does the story take place?

- e. g. historical period/season (summer-winter)/time of the day (morning/night)/is it past, present or future?

b) PLACE: Where is it happening/Where does it happen?

- e. g. country/city/room/farm/palace/forest/geography, etc.

c) ENVIRONMENT/ATMOSPHERE: What's the mood/tone of the place?

- e. g. gloomy/chaotic/peaceful/cold, etc.
- use sensory details: what do the character see, hear, smell, touch, etc.

d) SOCIAL CONDITIONS

- What are the beliefs, customs or norms of the world

- How do people behave?
 - What technology exists?
- e) **WEATHER**
- Is it raining/snowing/crowded/hot, etc.

EXAMPLE: The story happens in a castle long ago.

(3.) CONFLICT/PROBLEM – 30 pts. / 150 pts.

(Write what is the problem about? / What is the **central problem or struggle** that drives the plot)

The Conflict of a Story Consist of the Following:

- 1) **Main Character/Protagonist** – Who wants something? Or what does the character wants?
- 2) **Obstacle or opposition** – What's standing in their way (internal or external)? What prevents the character from getting it?
- 3) **Stakes** – What's at risk if they fail? Why does it matter?
- 4) **Tension** – What's the growing pressure as the conflict evolves?

EXAMPLE: Cinderella wants to go to the ball, but her stepmother does not allow her.

(4) CLIMAX – 30 pts. / 200 pts.

(Write what is the most important/exciting scenes or events in the story?)

What Should Be Included in the Climax?

1. The Central Conflict at Its Peak

- The main problem or struggle your protagonist has been facing comes to a head.
- This could be a confrontation, a decision, a battle, an escape, a realization.

2. High Stakes

- Something major is on the line: life, love, freedom, identity, truth.
- What the character chooses or does here changes everything.

3. Emotional Intensity

- The reader should *feel* what's at stake—fear, rage, heartbreak, joy, desperation.
- The emotions should match or exceed the buildup from earlier scenes.

4. Irreversibility

- It pushes the story into its final resolution (or downfall).

5. Character Agency

- The protagonist should *do* something—take action, make a choice, fight, give up, etc.

6. Consequences

- The climax should lead directly to the aftermath or resolution.
- It answers the key question: Will the protagonist succeed or fail?

EXAMPLE: Cinderella goes to the ball, and the prince dances with her.

(5) RESOLUTION – 30 pts. / 100 pts.

The **final part of a story's plot**. The story reaches a sense of closure.) **Write how the conflict ends and what happens to the characters afterward.**

Key Elements of a Good Resolution that should be present:

1. Conflict is Resolved/Settled

- The main problem or central conflict is addressed — win, lose, or compromise. The story ends with clarity or final thought.
- Resolution doesn't mean happy, but it should be clear.
e.g.: The hero defeats the villain... or learns to live with their grief.

2. Consequences

- The protagonist changes or learns something.
- This is usually tied to the internal conflict.
e.g.: A selfish person finally sacrifices something for others.

3. Ties Up Loose Ends

- Minor characters' arcs, side conflicts, or relationships should be addressed.
- Don't leave major threads hanging unless it's intentional (like in a series).
e.g.: The sidekick finds their own path. The love interest makes a decision.

4. Reflects the Theme

- The ending should feel connected to the message or deeper meaning of the story.
- It gives the audience a sense of why the story mattered.
e.g.: In a story about justice, the resolution shows whether justice was achieved — or not — and why.

5. Emotional Closure

- Leave the reader satisfied (not necessarily happy, but complete).
- Even tragic or open-ended stories should feel intentional.
e.g.: The protagonist dies, but their actions inspire change.
e.g. The Lion King: Simba defeats Scar, reclaims the throne, and restores balance
— fulfilling his growth arc.

EXAMPLE: The prince finds Cinderella and marries her. The story ends happily.

(6.) MORAL LESSON – 30 pts. / 100 pts.

What are the values learned?

(7.) MAKE INFERENCE – 100 pts.

If you are to write the story how would you conclude/end it?

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

- Read every day.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help when something doesn't make sense.
- Talk about books with your classmates, family, or teacher.
- Keep trying—even if it's hard at first!



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GUIDELINES - Reading Comprehension and Analysis Contest (Grade 6)

OBJECTIVE:

To assess students' ability to read, understand, and analyze a given book/text by applying reading comprehension strategies and critical thinking skills.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- ❖ **Participant's Grade Level:** 6th Graders
- ❖ **Language:** Arabic and English
- ❖ **Target Schools:** 24+ Private Schools (Bethlehem Governorate, Jerusalem & Jericho)
- ❖ **Number of Participants :** NO LIMIT
- ❖ **Books Online :** 75 Books to be read
- ❖ **Kind of Books:** Children Storybooks (60 in Arabic and 15 in English)
- ❖ **Date for Coordinators' Orientation (Online - ZOOM):** September 17, 2026 (Thursday) at 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.
- ❖ **Inclusive Target Dates of the Contest:** September 21, 2026 (Monday) to Apr. 16, 2027 (Friday)
- ❖ **Code System:** Each school with student participants will be given/assigned a code, which will be sent either by email or distributed to the Coordinator/Director of the respective schools
- ❖ **School Coordinator:** Contact person / School representative
- ❖ **Requirement before the start of the Contest:** Submission of an exact number of 6th Graders from each of the participating school to the PMECC Staff Organizers
- ❖ **Schedule of the Competition Rounds:**
 - First Round:** 21st September 2026, MONDAY – 31st December 2026, THURSDAY
 - Announcement of Second Round Qualifiers –** 11th January 2027, MONDAY
 - Second Round:** 12th January 2027, TUESDAY – 8th April 2027, THURSDAY
 - Announcement of Final Round Qualifiers –** 12th April 2027, MONDAY
 - Final Round:** 16th April 2027, FRIDAY – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
 - Announcement of the Grand Winners & Awarding Ceremony:**
7th May 2027, FRIDAY - 11:00am

- ❖ **Possible Venue:** BU Auditorium / PMECC? (to be arranged and confirmed later)
- ❖ **Prizes : (TOTAL: \$1,200.00) worth for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Students-Major Prize Winners)**
+ 10 Consolation Prizes worth 100NIS / student-participant **(TOTAL: \$300.00)**
- ❖ **System Computation:** By Accumulated Points
- ❖ **Winning Schools:**
 - **GRAND SCHOOL WINNER** – based on the highest percentage (%) of Student Participation from the 1st, 2nd and Final Rounds will receive **non-cash prize with equivalent amount of \$2,000.00** to be **used for School Library renovation / improvement** or any other needs of the school like **electronic gadgets or furniture and equipment** as recommended by the school administrator.
 - **School** which gets the highest number of participants who qualified for the Final Round will receive **non-cash prize with equivalent amount of - \$2,000.00** to be **used for School Library renovation/improvement** or any other needs of the school like **electronic gadgets or furniture and equipment** as recommended by the school administrator.
- ❖ **How to be qualified for the Winning Schools:** Only the Schools with more than twenty-five (25) number of 6th Graders can participate.
- ❖ **Any announcement/update/problem encountered regarding the Reading Competition** will be posted:
 - in the Reading Competition Portal Development Section of the PMECC Website
 - in the Existing Link made by the organizers which can be accessed thru Messenger or WhatsApp

CONTEST RULES:

- Students must read the entire book before answering.
- Students must answer all questions independently as every round requires.
- All written answers must be in complete sentences unless otherwise specified.
- Answers should be written in English language if the book is in English and should be written in Arabic language if the book is in Arabic.
- Participant must comply the following requirements of each round in order to accumulate points.
- Participant will gain '0' point if he/she does not follow instruction.
- Cheating, like doing 'Copy and Paste', using AI and writing 'nonsense' will automatically get a '0' point.
- Use of dictionaries or electronic devices is not allowed during the Final Round.

CONTEST FORMAT:

- **Participants:** 6th Graders from different private schools [24] in Bethlehem governorate, Jerusalem and Jericho
- **Materials:** 75 grade-appropriate story books: Arabic (60 books) and English (15 books)
- Interested participant **must access the PMECC website.**
- **Click on the Reading Competition Portal Development Section, register as a challenger under which school (see List of Schools - Please, ensure the correct usage of your school's assigned code), sign-in on the participant' icon and fill up the student personal profile, which include the following:**
 - Name of the participant
 - Gender: Male/Female
 - School and its Code Number
 - Name of the School Coordinator
 - City/Town/Village
 - Telephone number
- Save and proceed to the next step.
- Read at most **40 story-books (30 Arabic books + 10 English books)** during the **FIRST ROUND** and **35 story-books (30 Arabic books + 5 English books)** during the **SECOND ROUND** within the given time, **which should be taken from the challenge book lists provided on-line by the PMECC.**

NOTE: A complete reading of the 40 storybooks and getting a 'passed notice' are not a guarantee that the participants shall qualify himself/herself for the Second Round as elimination process of participants shall be based on the total gained accumulated points***

PHASES / ROUNDS:

FIRST ROUND REQUIREMENTS: 100pts. = 10%

- Starts on September 21, 2026 (Monday) - December 31, 2026(Thursday)
- Read 30 Arabic books + 10 English Books = a total of 40 books to be read
 -  Log in the Title and Author of every book read (Applicable to both Arabic and English books)
- Comply the following requirements below to accumulate points: TOTAL: 100pts
 1. A brief Written **Summary** / Summarizing the Text = **50 pts.**
 2. **Answer the Multiple-choice questions** (based on the book) – 5 questions x 5 pts each = **25 pts.**
 3. Provide **lessons/values learned** / What is the lesson or values? – 5 values x 5 = **25 pts.**

- **Last day to access the Books** will be on **December 31, 2026 (Thursday)**.
- A cut-off score of the required accumulated points set by the organizers will determine who qualifies for the Second Round.
- Participant should establish coordination with the School Coordinator and give him/her update regarding the number of books read and/or have registered online.
- **Announcement of the participants who qualified for the Second Round will be on January 11, 2027 (Monday)**, which can be relayed through the School Director or School Coordinator by email.

SECOND ROUND REQUIREMENTS: 150 pts. = 15%

- **Starts on 12th January 2027 (Tuesday) – 8th April 2027 (Thursday)**
- Only the participants who qualified and passed the cut-off score as confirmed by the PMECC organizers shall be joining this second round.
- Participants will have to read the remaining **35 books** i.e. **(30 Arabic + 5 English books)** within the given time of the SECOND ROUND.
- **Give the written answers of English book in English language and Arabic book in Arabic language.** To do it otherwise, one will gain '0' point.
- **Cheating**, i.e. **'Copy and Paste'**, **using AI** and **writing 'nonsense'** will automatically get a '0' point.
- Participants must follow the same previous procedure of registering online:
 -  **Log in the Title, Author of the book (Applicable to both Arabic and English books)**
- **Comply the following requirements below** to accumulate points:

Skills Assessed in Comprehension

- **Story Structure Basics: 150 pts.**
 1. **Character** - Recognizing or asking questions while reading: **Who? (15 pts.)**
 2. **Setting** – Answer the **when and where (15 pts.)**
 3. **Conflict.** Tell **what is the problem. (30 pts.)**
 4. **Climax** – The **most exciting or important event/moment! (30 pts.)**
 5. **Resolution** – **How is the problem solved? (30 pts.)**
 6. **Moral** – What are the **values/lessons learned? (30 pts.)**
- ***NOTE: A complete reading of the 35 story-books is not a guarantee that the participants shall qualify himself/herself for the Final Round as elimination of participants shall be based on the total gained accumulated points.***

- A cut-off score of the required accumulated points set by the organizers will determine who qualifies for the Final Round.
- Books cannot be accessed anymore after the 8th April 2027 (Thursday).
- Announcement of the participants who qualified for the Final Round will be on 12th April 2027 (MONDAY).

FINAL ROUND - CONTEST PROPER – 750 pts.=75%

- **Actual Date: April 16, 2027 - FRIDAY**
- Only the participant who received a confirmation from the PMECC organizers will qualify for the Final Round.
- **Venue: Pontifical Mission Educational and Cultural Center – PMECC**
8:30am - 10:30am – FIRST BATCH
11:00am - 1:00pm - SECOND BATCH
- Each Participant shall be given the same book for all **to be analyzed on the spot at the same time**, 15 minutes before the contest starts.
- Participants accumulate points through the following process:

Skills Assessed in Comprehension = Over-all Total of 750 pts.

○ **Story Structure Basics: 750 pts.**

1.) Character - Recognizing or asking questions while reading:

Who are the characters? (50 pts.)

2.) Setting – Answer the **when and where** (50 pts.)

3.) Conflict – what is the **problem?** (150 pts.)

4.) Climax – The **most exciting or important moment!** (200 pts.)

5.) Resolution – How is the problem solved? (100 pts.)

6.) Theme or Moral – What are the **values/ lessons learned?** (100 pts.)

7.) Make Inference: - If you were the author, how would you end the story? (100 pts.)

- **TIE-BREAKER: Answer 3 QUESTIONS** prepared by the judges with corresponding points.
- The **winner is determined by the points system:**
 - 1st Prize, 2nd Prize, 3rd Prize
 - 10 Consolation Prizes
 - Those who completed reading 75 books
 - Final qualifiers

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- ❖ **Accuracy** of answers
- ❖ **Clarity** and **completeness** in written responses
- ❖ **Use of evidence** from the text to support answers
- ❖ **Neatness** and **organization** of written work

PRIZES INFORMATION / AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:

- **Announcement of the Grand Winners & Awarding Ceremony:**
FRIDAY - 7th May 2027 – 11:00am
- The **student winners** will receive an **electronic gadgets equivalent** to a total cash prize of **\$1,200**, which shall be distributed respectively among the three major prizes winners (**1st, 2nd and 3rd Prize Winners**) + **ten (10) Consolation Prizes Winners worth 100 NIS each:**
 - **1st PRIZE – Student Winner = \$600 worth of Gadget**
 - **2nd PRIZE – Student Winner = \$400 worth of Gadget**
 - **3rd PRIZE – Student Winner = \$200 worth of Gadget**
 - **CONSOLATION PRIZES – First TEN Winners** - starting the **4th placer** until the **13th placer** will receive worth **100 NIS / Student-Participant**
 - **Those who finished & completed reading 75 books**
 - **Those who qualified for the Final Round**
- **WINNING SCHOOL:**
 - 1) **GRAND SCHOOL WINNER** – based on the **highest percentage (%) of Student Participants from the 1st, 2nd and Final Rounds** will receive non-cash prize with the **equivalent amount worth - \$2,000.00 to be**

used for school library improvement / renovation or any other needs of the school like **electronic gadgets or furniture and equipment** as recommended by the school administrator.

- 2) **SCHOOL** which gets the highest number of participants who qualified for the **Final Round** will receive non-cash prize with the equivalent amount worth \$2,000.00 to be used for school library improvement / renovation or any other needs of the school like **electronic gadgets or furniture and equipment** as recommended by the school administrator.

SUMMARY POINTS

*****To determine the MAJOR PRIZE WINNERS, the over-all percentage will be taken from the following:**

1st Round - 10%

2nd Round - 15%

Final Round - 75%

NOTE:

The more books you read, the more analysis you did, and the more questions and values you answered and/or provided...the **MORE POINTS YOU WOULD GAIN!!!**

BEST OF LUCK!!!

**PMECC Director & STAFF
BETHLEHEM**