

COMPREHENSION STRATEGY LESSON PLANS AND PRACTICE PAGES

The following preview shows all of the comprehension strategy resources for Sam and Dave Dig a Hole by Mac Barnett

Determining Importance Lesson Plan

Guided Reading Level

Key Vocabulary

Explanation of Strategy

Activate Prior Knowledge

Page by Page Guide and Strategy Questions

Turn, Talk, and Reflect

Determining Importance

Sam and Dave Dig a Hole
By: Mac Barnett
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: L

1
Get Ready To Read
✓ Learn about the book
✓ Get your brain ready to read
✓ Understand the meaning of important words found in the book

2
Learn About Comprehension Strategies
✓ Think about the text you read
✓ Know what to do

Summary
Sam and Dave Dig a Hole tells the story of two boys who set out on a mission to find "something spectacular." With shovels in hand and their dog by their side, Sam and Dave dig deeper and deeper, hoping to uncover treasure. Each time they change direction, they come very close to enormous jewels hidden underground—but they never notice them. Instead, they keep digging until the ground gives way, sending them tumbling down, down, down. In the end, the boys land in a yard that looks almost like home, leaving readers to wonder if they really returned or discovered somewhere new.

Link to What You Know
• Think of a time when you didn't realize or notice something that was really important. Tell about it.
• Have you ever tried to find something cool with a friend? Tell about it.

Important Words to Know and Understand
Canteen – A small bottle used for carrying a drink
Kerchief – A piece of cloth worn around the neck or head

Why Readers Determine Importance While Reading
Readers determine importance in order to decide which information is most important to remember.
When you read fiction (stories that are not real), it's important to pay attention to the names of characters, settings where important events take place, and clues that help you solve problems.
On the other hand, when you read nonfiction (books about real people, places, things, or events), it's important to pay attention to vocabulary words and the things you learn about big ideas or facts about a topic.
Because no two readers are the same, the things that you determine to be important may not be the same as another reader's. To determine importance think about what you already know, the information you've learned, and whether or not you need the information to understand what you read.

©BookPagez.com

Determining Importance Lesson Plan

Determining Importance

Sam and Dave Dig a Hole
By: Mac Barnett
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: L

3
Determine Importance While Reading
✓ Look for big ideas and supporting details
✓ Notice when you learn something new
✓ Look for new words that are important

Time to Read
Stop on the following pages. Think about the questions for each page. Then talk with a reading partner or write your thoughts down in your notebook.
Page 9 – Aside from Sam and Dave, what other character do you notice in this story? Do you think this character is important? Why or why not?
Pages 13 to 14 – Dave keeps making decisions that steer them away from the jewels. Is this important to notice? Why or why not?
Pages 24 to 27 – Sam and Dave fell asleep. What does the dog do? Is noticing this important to the story? Why or why not?
Pages 1 and 32 – Study the illustrations closely. What important detail has changed? How does noticing this detail help you to better understand what might have happened to Sam and Dave?
Page 34 – The author chose to end the story with the words on this page. Are they important? Why or why not? What message can you learn from this ending to the story?

4
Notice the Work You Did While Reading
✓ Think
✓ Talk
✓ Reflect
✓ Write

Time to Reflect
Think – What information did you learn while reading **Sam and Dave Dig a Hole**? Pick 3 big ideas or facts that you think you should remember about this story. Why are these ideas or facts important to you?
Talk – Tell your reading partner one of the most important facts that you want to remember. Explain why you want to remember your fact or idea. Remember to ask your partner to share their most important fact or idea.
Reflect – Think about the determining importance work you did while reading **Sam and Dave Dig a Hole**. How does thinking about the most important facts and ideas make you a better reader?
Write – Glue your Strategy Slip into your Reader's Notebook. Write about the work you did while reading **Sam and Dave Dig a Hole**. (Remember to include examples from the book!)

©BookPagez.com

Making Inferences

Sam and Dave Dig a Hole
By: Mac Barnett
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: L

1
Get Ready To Read
✓ Learn about the book
✓ Get your brain ready to read
✓ Understand the meaning of important words found in the book

2
Learn About Comprehension Strategies
✓ Think about the text you read
✓ Know what to do when you get confused

3
Make Inferences While Reading
✓ Look for clues that tell you how a character might be feeling or what they might be thinking
✓ Study the pictures. What do you notice about the characters, setting, and events?

4
Notice the Work You Did While Reading
✓ Think
✓ Talk
✓ Reflect
✓ Write

Summary
Sam and Dave Dig a Hole tells the story of two boys who set out on a mission to find "something spectacular." With shovels in hand and their dog by their side, Sam and Dave dig deeper and deeper, hoping to uncover treasure. Each time they change direction, they come very close to enormous jewels hidden underground—but they never notice them. Instead, they keep digging until the ground gives way, sending them tumbling down, down, down. In the end, the boys land in a yard that looks almost like home, leaving readers to wonder if they really returned or discovered somewhere new.

Time to Read
Stop on the following pages. Think about the questions for each page. Then talk with a reading partner or write your thoughts down in your notebook.
Page 8 – Make an inference based on the illustration. Is something "spectacular" nearby? Why do you think so?
Pages 13 to 14 – Look at the illustrations on these pages and make an inference about what is happening. Are Sam and Dave really falling? Why do you think so?
Pages 27 to 30 – Based on the few words and illustrations on these pages, make an inference about what is happening. Are Sam and Dave really falling? Why do you think so?
Inside Cover and Pages 35 and 36 – Study the illustrations. What details have changed? Do you think Sam and Dave dug a hole to completion near, or are they back where they started? Explain your thinking.

Time to Reflect
Think – What types of inferences did you make while reading **Sam and Dave Dig a Hole**? Did you infer to understand how a character thinks or feels? Did you already know about people, places, or events that helped you make inferences? Talk – Tell your reading partner about the best inference you made while reading this book. Explain why your inference was so helpful to you as a reader. Remember to ask your partner to share their thoughts about the book, too.
Reflect – Think about the extra information you learned while making inferences in **Sam and Dave Dig a Hole**. What was easy about making inferences? What was difficult? How does making inferences help you to be a better reader?
Write – Glue your Strategy Slip into your reader's notebook. Write about the work you did while reading **Sam and Dave Dig a Hole**. (Remember to include examples from the book!)

©BookPagez.com

Identifying the Author's Purpose

Sam and Dave Dig a Hole
By: Mac Barnett
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: L

1
Get Ready To Read
✓ Learn about the book
✓ Get your brain ready to read
✓ Understand the meaning of important words found in the book

2
Learn About Comprehension Strategies
✓ Think about the text you read
✓ Know what to do when you get confused

3
Identify the Author's Purpose While Reading
✓ Think about what the author is trying to tell you or make you think about
✓ Did the author write this book to persuade, inform or entertain you?

4
Notice the Work You Did While Reading
✓ Think
✓ Talk
✓ Reflect
✓ Write

Summary
Sam and Dave Dig a Hole tells the story of two boys who set out on a mission to find "something spectacular." With shovels in hand and their dog by their side, Sam and Dave dig deeper and deeper, hoping to uncover treasure. Each time they change direction, they come very close to enormous jewels hidden underground—but they never notice them. Instead, they keep digging until the ground gives way, sending them tumbling down, down, down. In the end, the boys land in a yard that looks almost like home, leaving readers to wonder if they really returned or discovered somewhere new.

Time to Read
Stop on the following pages. Think about the questions for each page. Then talk with a reading partner or write your thoughts down in your notebook.
Pages 9 and 18 – Sam and Dave have not found anything "spectacular" yet. What does Dave think the problem is? Why do you think the author wrote this part of the story?
Pages 17 and 18 – Sam and Dave dug in the wrong direction again. Why do you think the author chose for this to happen? Explain your thinking.
Pages 25 and 26 – These pages have no words and a very simple illustration. What was the author's purpose for these pages?
Page 32 – After Sam and Dave landed in the dirt, Dave said, "That was pretty spectacular." What reason do you think the author is trying to teach? Explain your thinking.
Inside Cover and Pages 35 and 36 – The story ends with some changed details in the final illustration. Why do you think the author chose to end the story this way? How does answering this question help you to better understand the author's purpose for writing this book?

Time to Reflect
Think – Mac Barnett is the author of **Sam and Dave Dig a Hole**. What was his purpose for writing this book? Did he write the book to persuade, inform, or entertain you? How do you know? Talk – Tell your reading partner what the book made you think about. What message did the author share with you? Remember to ask your partner to share their thoughts about the book, too.
Reflect – Think about what you learned while reading **Sam and Dave Dig a Hole**. Think about the things you and your reading partner discussed. How does identifying the author's purpose help you to be a better reader?
Write – Glue your Strategy Slip into your reader's notebook. Write about the work you did while reading **Sam and Dave Dig a Hole**. (Remember to include examples from the book!)

©BookPagez.com

Answer Key for Determining Importance with Sam and Dave Dig a Hole

Page 9: Aside from Sam and Dave, what other character do you notice in this story? Do you think this character is important? Why or why not?
Answers: I notice _____ and I don't _____ the story. How does noticing this detail help you to better understand what might have happened to Sam and Dave?

Pages 13 to 14: Dave keeps making decisions that steer them away from the jewels. Is this important to notice? Why or why not?
Answers: I notice _____ and I don't _____ the story. How does noticing this detail help you to better understand what might have happened to Sam and Dave?

Pages 24 to 27: Sam and Dave fell asleep. What does the dog do? Is noticing this important to the story? Why or why not?
Answers: I notice _____ and I don't _____ the story. How does noticing this detail help you to better understand what might have happened to Sam and Dave?

Page 34: The author chose to end the story with the words on this page. Are they important? Why or why not? What message can you learn from this ending to the story?
Answers: I notice _____ and I don't _____ the story. How does noticing this detail help you to better understand what might have happened to Sam and Dave?

Answer Key for Making Inferences with Sam and Dave Dig a Hole

Page 8: Make an inference based on the illustration. Is something "spectacular" nearby? Why do you think so?
Answers: I notice _____ and I don't _____ the story. How does noticing this detail help you to better understand what might have happened to Sam and Dave?

Pages 13 to 14: Look at the illustrations on these pages and make an inference about what is happening. Are Sam and Dave really falling? Why do you think so?
Answers: I notice _____ and I don't _____ the story. How does noticing this detail help you to better understand what might have happened to Sam and Dave?

Pages 27 to 30: Based on the few words and illustrations on these pages, make an inference about what is happening. Are Sam and Dave really falling? Why do you think so?
Answers: I notice _____ and I don't _____ the story. How does noticing this detail help you to better understand what might have happened to Sam and Dave?

Inside Cover and Pages 35 and 36: Study the illustrations. What details have changed? Do you think Sam and Dave dug a hole to completion near, or are they back where they started? Explain your thinking.
Answers: I notice _____ and I don't _____ the story. How does noticing this detail help you to better understand what might have happened to Sam and Dave?

Making Inferences

Identifying the Author's Purpose

Practice Pages and Answer Keys

WRITING ABOUT READING WITH OPTIONAL CCSS ALIGNMENT

Sam and Dave Dig a Hole: Making Inferences

Based on the ending of the story, make an inference about Sam and Dave. Do you think they learned anything from their journey? Why or why not?

☐ I can ask and answer who, what, where, when, why, and how questions to show that I understand stories. CCSS: RL.2.1

Sam and Dave Dig a Hole: Making Inferences

Based on the ending of the story, make an inference about Sam and Dave. Do you think they learned anything from their journey? Why or why not?

☐ I can ask and answer who, what, where, when, why, and how questions to show that I understand stories. CCSS: RL.2.1

Sam and Dave Dig a Hole: Making Inferences

Based on the ending of the story, make an inference about Sam and Dave. Do you think they learned anything from their journey? Why or why not?

☐ I can ask and answer who, what, where, when, why, and how questions to show that I understand stories. CCSS: RL.2.1

Reader's Notebook: Comprehension Strategy Slips (CCSS) | ©BookPagez.com

Strategy and Text Based Reader's Response Prompt

Common Core State Standard

"I Can" Statement

Common Core Free Option

Reading Response Prompts for Each Comprehension Strategy Lesson Plan

3 COMPREHENSION STRATEGY GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Determining Importance

Title: _____

Think about the book. Write all of the important information in the thought bubble below.

Now determine 3 BIG ideas, events, words, or facts that are important to you. Draw a picture to illustrate the most important parts of your book.

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____

Directions:

1. Answer each of the questions.
2. Carefully cut out on the dotted line.
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your Reader's Notebook.

Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizer | ©BookPagez.com

Determining Importance

Identifying the Author's Purpose

Title: _____

Who is the author of your book?

What was the author's purpose for writing this book? How do you know?

☐ To Persuade ☐ To Inform ☐ To Entertain

I know the author wanted to _____ because _____

Directions:

1. Answer each of the questions.
2. Carefully cut out on the dotted line.
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your Reader's notebook.

Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizer | ©BookPagez.com

Author's Purpose

Making Inferences

Title: _____

What the Text Says	What I Know	What I Can Infer
Write a claim in the text or pictures.	What do you know about the claim?	Describe thoughts, Cause, Setting

Draw a picture to illustrate your inference.

Directions:

1. Answer each of the questions.
2. Carefully cut out on the dotted line.
3. Glue, tape, or staple into your Reader's notebook.

Comprehension Strategy Graphic Organizer | ©BookPagez.com

Making Inferences