



Practicing Critical Reading Skills

Every crew member needs his or her thinking cap on when reading! Using the Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo series, practice your critical reading skills by making predictions, comparing and contrasting information and analyzing cause and effect. Read the explanations of each of these below.

1. Making a **prediction** means thinking about what will happen in the story before you actually read further. Select a Katie Kazoo book and read just the title and the first page. Then close the book and write down what you think will happen next. Read on to see if you are correct. Continue to do this throughout the book, making predictions about the characters' words or actions, who Katie might switch into, or the outcome of the switcheroo. Use the Demonstrating Critical Reading Skills sheet found in the Printables section of www.katiekazoo.com to help keep track of your predictions. Take a look back at your predictions after you finish reading the book. How many were right? How many times did you alter your thinking? Did you make more educated guesses at the beginning of the novel or at the end?
2. When you **compare** two things, you explain how they are alike. When you **contrast** them, you find the ways in which they are different. Oftentimes, writers use certain words to show the reader that they are comparing or contrasting items. Words such as "also," "like," or "as" give the reader a signal that a comparison is being made. Words such as "although" or "however" often mean a contrast is being made. Practice comparing and contrasting as you read—for example, compare and contrast the characters of Suzanne and Jeremy or contrast the last two Katie books you have read. Use the Venn diagram found in the Printables section of www.katiekazoo.com to illustrate your findings.
3. A **cause** is the reason something happens, while the **effect** is the result of that cause. Therefore, demonstrating cause and effect means showing what happened first to create the situation that comes afterward. There can often be more than one cause, or more than one effect, for each sequence of events. After reading a Katie book, determine what caused the action of the story. Is there more than one reason? Next, explain the effects of that cause. You already know one (the switcheroo took place), but what else happens in the story because of this case?