

53 WAYS

To Check for Understanding

1. Summary Poem Activity:

- List 10 key words from an assigned text.
- Do a free verse poem with the words you highlighted.
- Write a summary of the reading based on the words you highlighted.

2. Invent the Quiz

- Write 10 higher-order text questions related to the content. Pick 2 and answer them in half a page.

3. The 411

- Describe the author's objective.

4. Opinion Chart

- List opinions about the content in one half of a T-chart, and support your opinions in the right column.

5. So What? Journal

- Identify the main idea of the lesson. Why is it important?

6. Rate Understanding

7. Clickers (Response System)

8. Teacher Observation Checklist

9. Explaining

- Explain the main idea using an analogy.

10. Evaluate

- What is the author's main point? What are the arguments for and against this idea?

11. Describe

- What are the important characteristics or features of the main concept or idea of the reading?

12. Define

- Pick out an important word or phrase that the author introduces. What does this word or phrase mean?

13. Compare & Contrast

- Identify the theory or idea the author is advancing. Then identify an opposite theory. What are the similarities and differences between these ideas?

14. Question Stems

- I believe that _____ because _____ .
- I am confused by _____ .

15. Mind Map

- Create a mind map that represents a concept using a diagram-making tool (like Gliffy). Provide your teacher / classmates with the link to your mind map.

16. Intrigue Journal

- List the five most interesting, controversial, or resonant ideas you found in the readings. Include page #s and a short rationale (100 words) for your selection.

17. Advertisement

- Create an ad, with visuals and text, for the newly learned concept.

18. 5 Words

- What 5 words would you use to describe _____ ? Explain and justify your choices.

19. Muddy Moment

- What frustrates and confuses you about the text? Why?

20. Collage

- Create a collage around the lesson's themes. Explain your choices in one paragraph.

21. Letter

- Explain _____ in a letter to your best friend.

22. Talk Show Panel

- Have a cast of experts debate the finer points of _____ .

23. Study Guide

- What are the main topics, supporting details, important person's contributions, terms, and definitions?

24. Illustration

- Draw a picture that illustrates a relationship between terms in the text. Explain in one paragraph your visual representation.

25. KWL Chart

- What do you know, what do you want to know, and what have you learned?

26. Sticky Notes Annotation

- Use sticky notes to describe key passages that are notable or that you have questions about.

27. 3-2-1

- 3 things you found out, 2 interesting things, and 1 question you still have.

28. Outline

- Represent the organization of _____ by outlining it.

29. Anticipation Guide

- Establish a purpose for reading and create post-reading reflections and discussion.

30. Simile

- What we learned today is like _____ .

31. The Minute Paper

- In 1 minute, describe the most meaningful thing you've learned.

32. Interview You

- You're the guest expert on *60 Minutes*. Answer:
1) What are component parts of _____ ?
2) Why does this topic matter?

33. Double Entry Notebook

- Create a two-column table. Use the left column to write down 5–8 important quotations. Use the right column to record reactions to the quotations.

34. Comic Book

- Use a comic book creation tool like Bitstrips to represent understanding.

35. Tagxedo

- What are key words that express the main ideas? Be ready to discuss and explain.

36. Classroom TED Talk

37. Podcast

- Play the part of a content expert and discuss content-related issues on a podcast, using the free Easypodcast.

38. Create a Multimedia Poster

39. Twitter Post

- Define _____ in under 140 characters.

40. Explain Your Solution

- Describe how you solved an academic solution step-by-step.

41. Dramatic Interpretation

- Dramatize a critical scene from a complex narrative.

42. Ballad

- Summarize a narrative that employs a poem or song structure that using short stanzas.

43. Pamphlet

- Describe the key features of _____ in a visually and textually compelling pamphlet.

44. You've Got Mail

- Each student writes a question about a topic on the front of an envelope; the answer is included inside. Questions are then "mailed" around the room. Each learner writes her answer on a slip of scratch paper and confirms its correctness by reading the "official answer" before she places her own response in the envelope. After several series of mailings and a class discussion about the subject, the envelopes are deposited in the teacher's letterbox.

45. Bio Poem

- To describe a character or a person, write a poem that includes:
Line 1) First Name
Line 2) 3–4 adjectives that describe the person
Line 3) Important relationship
Line 4) 2–3 things, people, or ideas that the person loved
Line 5) 3 feelings the person experienced
Line 6) 3 fears the person experienced
Line 7) Accomplishments
Line 8) 2–3 things the person wanted to see happen or wanted to experience
Line 9) His or her residence
Line 10) Last name

46. Sketch

- Visually represent new knowledge.

47. Top 10 List

- What are the most important takeaways, written with humor?

48. Color Cards

- Red = Stop, I need help.
- Green = Keep going, I understand.
- Yellow = I'm a little confused.

49. Quickwrite

- Without stopping, write what most confuses you.

50. Conference

- A short, focused discussion between the teacher and student.

51. Debrief

- Reflect immediately after an activity.

52. Exit Slip

- Have students reflect on lessons learned during class.

53. Misconception Check

- Given a common misconception about a topic, students explain why they agree or disagree with it.