8th Grade ELA Comprehension Questions

Unit 5.2: “The Drummer Boy of Shiloh” p. 167-172 by Ray Bradbury

1. ANALYZE STORIES – HISTORICAL FICTION: The **setting**, or the time and place, is especially important to understanding this story. **Re-read lines 1-13 (p. 167).** **Identify details that describe the setting. How might the details of the setting contribute to the theme?** (RL.1.1, RL.1.2)
2. DETERMINE MEANINGS OF WORDS AND PHRASES: Authors use descriptions and language that appeals to the senses to create a **mood**, the feeling or atmosphere in a story. The mood, whether it’s one of humor, sadness, or tension, is intended to evoke an emotional response from the reader. **Re-read lines 24-39 (p. 168). Quote language from the text that describes the mood in the camp during the night before the battle.** (RL.1.1, RL.2.4)
3. DRAW CONCLUSION: When readers draw conclusions, they use story details and their own knowledge and experiences to figure out things an author has not explicitly stated about characters and events in a story. **Re-read lines 40–41. Draw a conclusion about how the drummer boy feels at this point.** (RL.1.1)
4. ANALYZE STORIES – HISTORICAL FICTION: While some events in historical fiction really happened, the author may also make up some events. Authors rely on research to make made-up events realistic and true to the time period in which they occurred. **Re-read lines 72-81 (p. 169). What details make Joby think that the man talking to him is the General?** (RL.1.1)
5. DETERMINE MEANINGS OF WORDS AND PHRASES: A person’s words or actions can also impact a story’s mood. **Re-read lines 82-94 (p. 169), especially to the General’s statement, “There’s your cheek, fell right off the tree overhead.” What do the General’s words suggest? What mood is created?** (RL.2.4)
6. DRAW CONCLUSIONS: Pay attention to the General’s description of the young soldiers on both sides of the lines. **Re-read lines 106–115. Draw a conclusion about how the General feels about the upcoming battle.** (RL.1.1)
7. DETERMINE MEANINGS OF WORDS AND PHRASES: What a character says and how it is said can affect the mood of the story. **Re-read lines 141-157. How do you think Joby feels when the General tells him that he is “the heart of the army?” What mood does the General’s speech to Joby create?** (RL.2.4)