

## At-Home Reading Activities that Build Comprehension

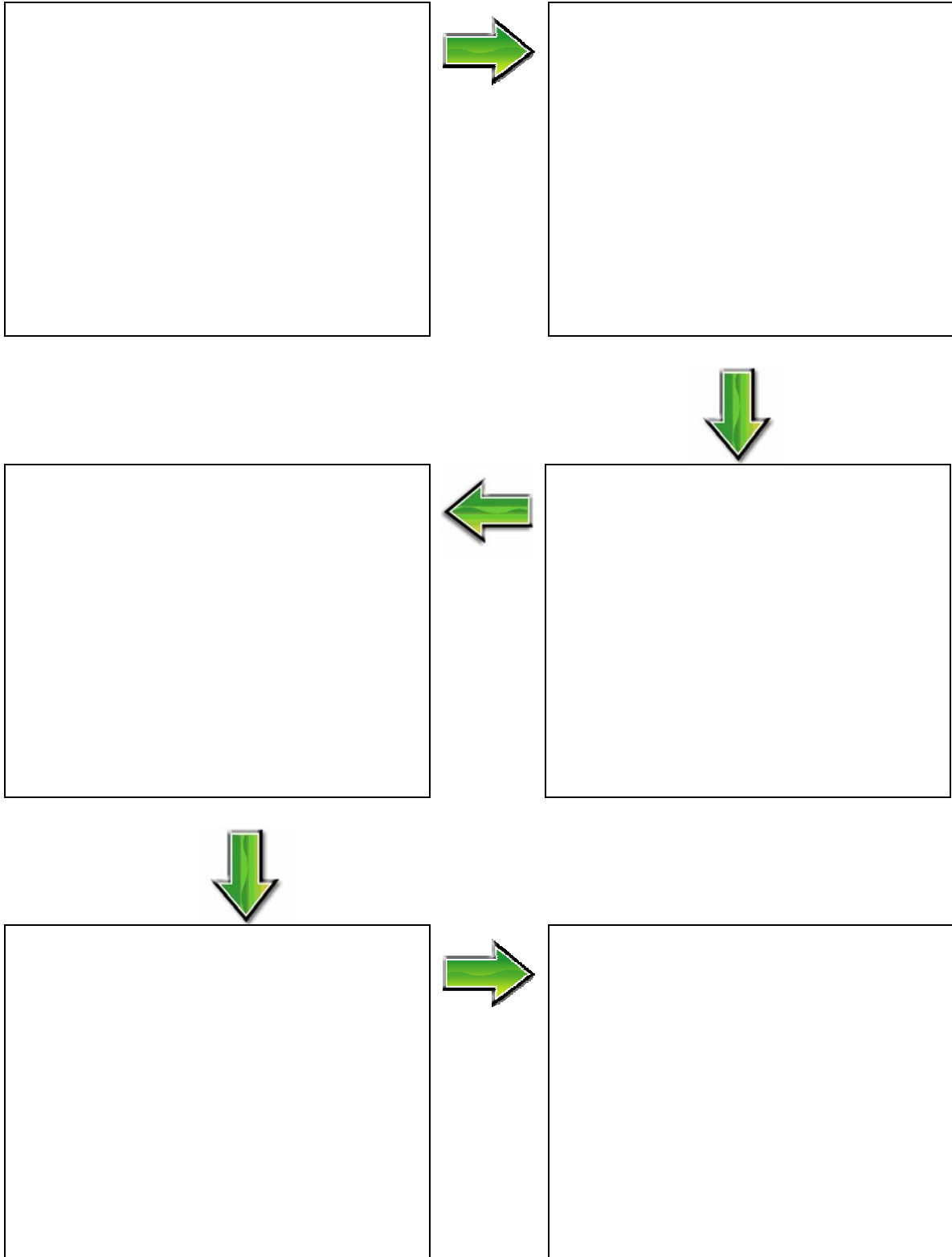
1. Sequence chain...create a comic book version of the events in the story you are reading. In each box, write or draw the main events for a chapter or section of the book. At the end of the book, look over your sequence chain and see if you've captured the events of the story. (see resource below)
2. Character sketch...determine who the main character in the story is. Create a drawing of the character and then write a description of what you know about him/her/it. Be sure to include information about how the character looks, what he/she/it does, like and dislikes, friends and family, and thoughts and feelings. Look over your sketch and see how well it represents this character.
3. Letter to a character...think about the character's decisions and actions in the story you read. Respond to this character by writing a letter voicing your opinion about his/her/its actions and decisions. Did the character do the right thing? Make the right choices? Were there other options that he/she/it didn't consider? Tell the character what you think about his/her/its choices and behavior.
4. News report...create a news story reporting on the new information you've learned about a subject. Imagine that you have the responsibility of reporting this new information to the world. What would you say? What should people know about this topic? Get creative...draw a diagram, create a powerpoint, make a poster...decide the best way to summarize what you know about this topic.
5. Message in a bottle...imagine that a character from your reading wants to send a message out to the world. What would he/she/it want people to know? What is that character doing now that their story has ended? Does your character feel bad about what happened? Write a message from that character expressing his/her/its thoughts and feelings.
6. Diorama...create a 3D representation of the setting of the story. You can use a piece of cardboard, a shoebox, whatever! Visualize what the setting looked like. Add important details like buildings, forests, people, animals...whatever was important in the story. Try and make your diorama look just like the setting you imagined while reading the story.
7. Book jacket...imagine that the publisher of the book you read wants YOU to design a new cover for that book. Think about what was most important in that book and create a cover that lets people know what to expect in the book. Remember to include a brief summary for the inside cover. You can also add reviews on the back cover that give the opinions of people who have already read this book.

8. Somebody-Wanted-But-So...as you read, keep track of the important plot events in the story using this chart (see resource below). Somebody (the main character) Wanted (to do or say something) But (there was a problem) So (how the problem was resolved). After reading the story, you will have made a summary of the plot of the story!

9. Book review...did you like the book that you just read? Did the author do a good job presenting the information or telling the story? Pretend you are a book reviewer and write your opinion of the book. Give the book a rating (2 thumbs up, 5 stars, etc.) and then explain what was good or bad about that book.

10. Study guide...pretend you are a teacher and you have to help your students to understand this book. Create a list of questions, chapter by chapter, that will help your students to focus on the most important information in the book. If you can, try and find someone else who has read your book to answer your questions. (Make sure you know the answers to your own questions!)

## Sequence Chain



<p><b>Somebody...</b>  This is the main character in the book.  Tell what you know about this character.</p>		
<p><b>Wanted...</b>  What did this character want to do? What was his/her/its goal in the story?</p>		
<p><b>But...</b>  There were problems or obstacles that made it hard for the character to achieve the goal. What were they?</p>		
<p><b>So...</b>  Somehow the problems were resolved. How did this happen?</p>		

