

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 and 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.