

Interactive Reading Guide

For

"Burnt Toast"

by Mack Reynolds

This guide includes four interactive reading activities.

(See instructions on Page 2 and 3 of this guide)

- 1) RAP
 - 2) WATO Character Study
 - 3) Conflict Identification Activity
 - 4) Thematic Discussion
- Evaluation guide

The total number of marks for the completion of the activities is 50. Be sure to read carefully and provide thoughtful responses.

PLEASE TYPE YOUR ANSWERS IN A SEPARATE WORD DOCUMENT. YOU CAN USE THE WATO SHEET ON THE WEBSITE TO TYPE IN THOSE ANSWERS.

Activity Instructions

Activity 1 - RAP Activity (15 marks)

RAP is an active reading strategy that has you interact with what you are reading.

The RAP strategy involves three steps: you read a section of the text, you ask questions about what you have read and then you paraphrase, or put into your own words, the important points.

At the end of each section you are asked to pose a test-type question starting with the word "why". Ask a question that is important to your understanding of the story.

For instance, you might ask why a character responded the way they did, or why is the setting described the way it is. After that, paraphrase the key ideas of that section of text.

Once your paraphrase is complete, continue reading until you come to the next break in the story and perform the same activities.

After performing a RAP on a story you will have a clearer understanding of what the story is about.

Activity 2 - WATO Character Study (15 marks)

WATO is a strategy to help you see how an author reveals the personality of characters to us.

You use a WATO sheet to look at the Words, Actions, Thoughts, and the Opinion of others as they relate to the protagonist. You will select one example in each of the categories and then explain what each selection suggests about the personality of the character.

In your active reading guide you will see a WATO sheet. Use this sheet to complete an overview of the personality of the protagonist once you have finished reading the

story. Be sure to include examples from different parts of the story to get a complete picture of the personality of the protagonist. Then explain whether you feel this person is a static or dynamic character. Be sure to support your position with reference to examples from the story.

Through a careful study of the variety of ways an author reveals character to us, we can gain a clearer understanding of the personality of important characters in a story.

Activity 3 - Conflict Identification Activity (10 marks)

The conflict of any story is crucial to plot development. One key moment in the conflict is the inciting incident. This is the moment in the story where the conflict becomes clear to us. This is followed by a series of events where the two forces of conflict clash with each other leading to the climax. The climax is the moment where the conflict is resolved, either in favour of the protagonist or in favour of the antagonist, or opposing force.

In your active reading guide you are going to identify two key moments in the conflict.

Once you have read the story, go back and circle the inciting incident of the conflict. Then, in the margin to the right of this event, explain why this moment is the inciting incident. Following that, scan the story and circle the climax of the conflict.

Again, in the margin to the right of this event, explain why this is the point at which the conflict is resolved.

These are important decisions and will have an impact on what we believe the theme of the story is.

Activity 4 - Thematic Discussion (10 marks)

Every story has an intended message or theme. By looking at the different elements of a story, and the way they influence each other, we can gain a greater understanding of what the author is trying to communicate to us.

In your active reading guide, you are asked to discuss what you feel the theme of the story is. Remember that a theme is a statement of the author's intended message.

Be sure to make reference to specific events or elements in the story that support your views. Write this in complete sentences and paragraphs with examples from different parts of the story to support your conclusion.

The consideration of theme is, ultimately, what the story is all about. By understanding the message of the author we are able to see how the different elements work together to provide this insight.

RAP Section 1 (pages 98-99)

Create a test-type question that relates to setting: (2 marks)

Paraphrase of plot: (3 marks)

RAP Section 2 (pages 100-101)

Create a test-type question that relates to the character of the protagonist. (2 marks)

Paraphrase of plot: (3 marks)

RAP Section 3 (page 102)

Create a test-type question that relates to the theme of the story. (2 marks)

Paraphrase of plot: (3 marks)

Wato Character Study (15 Marks)

Select examples from your story that reflect the personality traits of a specific character.

WATO Character Study

Select examples from your story that reflect personality traits of a specific character.

Story: _____ Character: _____

	Example(s) from story	What Personality Trait(s) does this show?
Words		
Actions		
Thoughts		
Opinions of others		
Explain if this character is static or dynamic		

Conflict Study (10 Marks)

Now that you have completed a careful reading of the story, you can look more closely at the development and resolution of the conflict.

Remember: The conflict of any story is crucial to plot development. One key moment in the conflict is the inciting incident. This is the moment in the story where the conflict becomes clear to us. This is followed by a series of events where the two forces of conflict clash with each other leading to the climax. The climax is the moment where the conflict is resolved, either in favour of the protagonist or in favour of the antagonist, or opposing force.

Do the following steps:

Step 1

Identify the inciting incident of the conflict by highlighting or circling that event on your copy of the story. In the margin to the right of your choice, explain why this event is the inciting incident.

Step 2

Identify the climax of the story by highlighting or circling that event on your copy of the story. In the margin to the right of your choice, explain why this event is the climax to the conflict.

Step 3

Complete the conflict summary below:

- a. The main conflict in this story is between _____ and _____.
- b. This conflict is best described as internal/external (circle one) because ...
- c. This conflict was resolved when ...

Thematic Discussion (10 marks)

Explain what the theme of this story is. Ensure you are providing specific examples from the story and explanation as to how they support your choice for theme.