

Understanding What You've Read

You don't have to take a test after reading a story to show how well you have understood what you read. Here are some fun and exciting ways to show your comprehension.

- * Write a sequel to the story you have read.
- * Write about what's happening in an illustration from the book.
- * Draw a picture of an incident in the story and write an explanation.
- * Keep a journal in which you write entries as if you were one of the characters in the story.
- * Explain key ideas from the story in your own words.
- * Write letters to or from the characters in the story. (Example: Billy could write to his cousins from Half-Moon Lake, telling of his adventures there.)
- * Make a wanted poster or a missing person report for a main character. (Example: Make a report for Mike and Mr. Bairns when they are lost in the storm in *Shipwreck on the Lights*.)
- * Write an explanation telling what happened before and after a passage or illustration found in the book.
- * Stop reading at an exciting place in the story and predict what could happen next.
- * Write a character sketch for one of the main characters.
- * Make a time line showing the main events in the story.
- * Explain how the feelings of the main character change, from the beginning to the end of the story.
- * Compare and contrast characters in a story.
- * In a small group, write sentences changing facts from the story. Exchange sentences. Each of you correct the mistakes in the sentences your friends have written.
- * Conduct an interview with a student playing a character in the story.
- * Make up conversations that might occur between characters in different stories. What might Tyler (from *High Desert Secrets*) and Rolf (from *Danger at Half-Moon Lake*) say to each other? Or Jodi and Susie (from *Danger at Half-Moon Lake*)?
- * Write a script for a dramatization of a story incident.