



# Smarty Activity

## Reading Strategies

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**Book App: *Monster Jam***

**Activity Title: Reading Strategies**  
**Approximate Grade Level: K-3**

**Subject(s): Literacy in Music**

### **Discussion Questions with Deeper Thinking**

- **Text-to-Self** –

**Skyler's voice makes a scratchy noise and sounds like a hoarse whisper when she tries to sing.**

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**JD offers Skyler some lime fizz. Banger offers her a candy ant. Stones suggests that warm clam juice does wonders. None of these things helps her voice, however.**

**When was the last time that you were sick? What was wrong? Did your parents give you anything to help your illness?**

**What was it? Did it work?**

- **Pun –**

**A Pun is playing with words that sound alike but have two different meanings. One example is “You can tune a guitar, but you can’t tuna fish.”**

**The underlined words sound alike, but their meanings are different. They are Puns.**

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**When The Ground Hogs learned that their band had made it into the show, Axe announced, "We are going to be Mon-Stars!"**

**What word does "Mon-Stars" sound like? Why is this a Pun?**

- **Idiom** –

**An idiom is when we say things that we don't really mean. For example, we might say...**

- ✓ **Let's rock and roll!**
- ✓ **I was as cool as a cucumber.**

**Listening to music and dancing has nothing to do with a rock or with rolling. Being calm and cool has nothing to do with a cucumber. When we say these idioms, however, we all understand what we mean.**

**In the story, we read the following idioms:**

***...this was the big break that Axe had dreamed of...***

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***Skyler whispered that she would shake, rattle, and roll.***

**What is meant by the idiom “big break”?**

**What does Skyler mean when she says that she will “shake, rattle, and roll”?**

**Why are these idioms? Share your idioms with your class or family.**

- **Homophone –**

**A Homophone is when two words sound alike but are spelled differently. For example, the words to/too/two are Homophones.**

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**In the story, it reads that “Skyler tried again but could only make a ‘hoarse’ whisper.”**

**“Hoarse” means a rough or harsh sound in your voice. It sounds like “Horse,” which is an animal.**

**Can you think of some Homophones? Words that sound alike but are spelled differently?**

- **Symbolism –**

**A symbol represents something. For example, a picture of a heart symbolizes or represents love.**

**Names of characters in a story can be a symbol that represents their personalities. For example, if a girl were named “Sunny,” it might symbolize or represent that she is a bright person whose personality is full of sunshine!**

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**What do each of the characters' names below symbolize or show you about them? How does it represent the kind of Mon-Star that each one is or how does it represent the type of personality that each one has?**

✓ **Blaze**

✓ **Screech**

✓ **Scar**

✓ **Axe**

✓ **Banger**

✓ **Raven**

• **Synthesizing/Illustrating-**

**Create a picture or poster that represents the importance of teamwork with the Mon-Stars. What does each Mon-Star do to help the band?**

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- ✓ **What does each offer the band musically?**
- ✓ **How do they support and encourage each other?**
- ✓ **What is special about each Mon-Star's personality?**

**How could you show this in a picture/poster about the importance of teamwork?**

- **Diversity –**

**Think about each of the characters in this story. Have you noticed that they are different colors, have different personalities, and have different talents?**

**The fact that we all are different colors with our different personalities and our different talents makes life very interesting. This world would be very boring if we were all alike!**

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**Look around your classroom at all of the students.  
What makes each student different and special?**

**Share with each of these classmates why you think they are special. Ask them to tell you what is special about you.**

- **Illustrating –**

**In the story, *The Ground Hogs* created a poster advertising an audition for a lead singer.**

**The main points that every poster or advertisement should answer are...**

✓ **Who?**

✓ **What?**

✓ **When?**

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✓ **Where?**

**Using the poster in this story, answer these questions:**

✓ **Who needs help?**

✓ **What do they need?**

✓ **When is the audition?**

✓ **Where is the audition?**

**Did you begin each sentence with a capital letter and use end punctuation? Did you spell your words correctly?**

**Can you design a poster that advertises or tells about an event? Include the information for Who? What? When? Where?**

- **Moral** –

**A “moral” is a lesson learned from the story. One lesson that this story teaches us is that we should “Never stop trying to solve the problem.”**

**How did *The Ground Hogs* show that they did not stop trying to solve their problem?**

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**Think of a problem that you have. How could you keep trying to solve this problem?**

**Tell your classmates how you could solve your problem and ask them how they could solve their problems.**

### **Common Core Anchor Standards**

- **Reading: 1,2,3,4,7**
- **Writing: 2,4**
- **Speaking and Listening: 1,2**
- **Language: 1,2,5**

### **Bloom's Taxonomy**

- **Remembering: Tell, List, Describe, Write**
- **Understanding: Explain, Discuss, Distinguish, Paraphrase**
- **Applying: Show, Illustrate, Examine, Interpret**
- **Analyzing: Analyze, Examine, Identify, Advertise**
- **Evaluating: Select, Choose, Justify**
- **Creating: Create, Plan, Construct, Design**

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