

Make Predictions

When you **make predictions** as you read, you use details to help you think about what might happen next. You can confirm your predictions if they are correct. If they are not correct, you can revise them.



Find Text Evidence

When you read the second paragraph of “Miguel in the Middle” on page 311, you might make a prediction about how Miguel will feel in his new school.

page 311

For as long as I can remember, I’ve always been in the middle. I’m the middle child in my family. I’ve always sat in the middle of the classroom in school. Even my first and last names, Miguel Martinez, start with an M—the middle letter of the alphabet.

Luckily, I’m also in the middle of a large circle of friends. Most of them are classmates in school—well, at least they were until now. You see, I started middle school in September, and the **transition** from elementary school caused some painful changes for me. All of my closest friends go to a different middle school in the area, because of the way our school district is mapped out. The only classmate I know from my old school is Jake, who’s a **genius** in math, but since it’s not my favorite subject, we never became friends.

When I read that all of Miguel’s friends had gone to a different school, I predicted that Miguel will be unhappy in his new school. When Miguel mentioned Jake, I revised this by predicting that Jake may become a friend.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



What did you predict would happen after the first page? As you read, use the strategy Make Predictions.

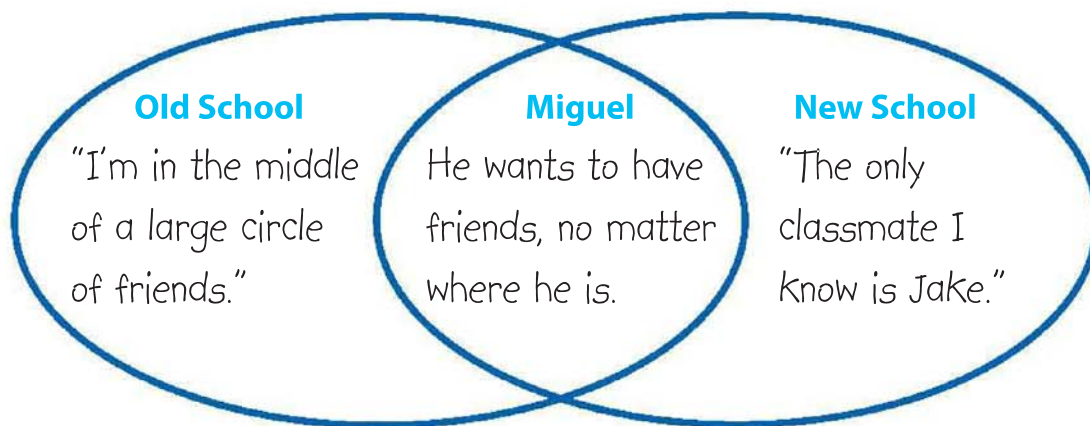
Compare and Contrast

When you **compare and contrast settings** in a story, you figure out how the places and times are alike and different. In a story with more than one setting, you can compare and contrast the effects of the different settings on the characters.



Find Text Evidence

By contrasting the settings in “Miguel in the Middle” on page 311, I find that Miguel was happy in his old school and unhappy in the new one. However, he wants to have friends no matter where he is.



Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Reread the rest of “Miguel in the Middle.” Record details about Miguel’s old school and new school in the graphic organizer. In the center, describe how Miguel remains the same in both places.

Go Digital! Use the interactive graphic organizer

Realistic Fiction

The selection “Miguel in the Middle” is realistic fiction.

Realistic fiction:

- Has characters and settings that could actually exist
- May have a first-person narrator
- May include figurative language, such as hyperbole and metaphor



Find Text Evidence

I see that “Miguel in the Middle” is realistic fiction. Miguel attends middle school. When Miguel says that teachers shovel tons of homework, he is using hyperbole, as people do. Shovel is used as a metaphor to show how the homework seems to be assigned.

page 311

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Luckily, I'm also in the middle of a large circle of friends. Most of them are classmates in school—well, at least they were until now. You see, I started middle school in September, and the **transition** from elementary school caused some painful changes for me. All of my closest friends go to a different middle school in the area, because of the way our school district is mapped out. The only classmate I know from my old school is Jake, who's a **genius** in math, but since it's not my favorite subject, we never became friends.

Another big change is that I'm no longer situated in the middle of the classroom. My seat is now in the front row. Also, my new teachers shovel tons more homework at us (especially in math) than we used to get. So you can imagine why my heart wasn't exactly dancing when middle school began.



Narrator The narrator is the person who tells the story.

Figurative Language Figurative language paints a word picture. Hyperbole exaggerates, and metaphors compare unlike things.

COLLABORATE

Your Turn

How does the narrator's point of view affect “Miguel in the Middle”? Point out any figurative language.

Context Clues

When you find an unfamiliar or multiple meaning word in a sentence, you can look for sentence clues such as **comparisons** to help you figure out the meaning.



Find Text Evidence

When I read the second paragraph of "Miguel in the Middle," I can use the comparison a different middle school in the area to figure out the meaning of district in school district. District must mean the same as "area."



All of my closest friends go to a different middle school in the area, because of the way our school district is mapped out.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Use context clues to figure out the meanings of the following words in "Miguel in the Middle."

situated, page 311

session, page 312

brainteaser, page 313



Readers to . . .

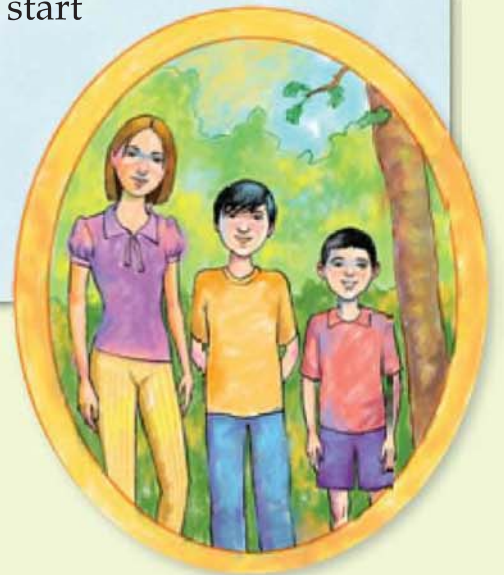
When writers organize their stories, they start with a **strong opening** to make readers want to continue reading. Descriptive details that give the writing a sense of style, character, and place can help make an opening strong. Reread the opening lines from “Miguel in the Middle” to see how the writer grabs the reader’s interest.

Strong Openings

How does the opening sentence grab your attention? Identify three details in the paragraph that help explain the opening sentence.

Expert Model

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Writers



Laura wrote a narrative about her first visit to an amusement park. Read her revised opening.

Student Model

My Trip to Ride Park

It was ^{the most exciting day of my life} ~~lots of fun~~. My family and

I visited Ride Park for the first time. Friends had told me ^{how great the rides were} ~~about the~~

~~rides~~. Yet "great" does not begin to ^{how I felt on} describe them. When you soar 40

stories high, get tossed like a salad, and dive 30 feet under water, it ^{It feels amazing!!!} doesn't just feel great.



Editing Marks

- ^ Add
- ^ Add a comma.
- ✂ Take out.
- sp Check spelling.
- ≡ Make a capital letter.

Grammar Handbook

Independent and Dependent Clauses

See page 453.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



- Identify details that Laura included to show that her story is realistic fiction.
- Look at independent and dependent clauses Laura used.
- Tell how Laura's changes created a stronger opening.

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Write online in Writer's Workspace