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| **Compare** | Examine in order to note likenesses between two things or what they have in common |
| **Contrast** | Examine in order to note significant differences between two or more things |
| **Describe** | To tell or show with written or spoken words; point out facts or details |
| **Identify** | To establish as particular by noting individual features or characteristics in isolation |
| **Story** | The plot or succession of incidents of a novel, poem, drama, etc |
| **Demonstrate** | To describe, explain, display or illustrate through examples |
| **Determine** | To decide or conclude through reasoning or observation |
| **Explain** | To make clear or understandable to others; make plain |
| **Support** | To back up, justify your answer, opinion, or claim (with evidence) |
| **Details** | Elements that support ideas; smaller elements of structure |
| **Develop** | Expand, elaborate; add details |
| **Narrative** | A sequence of events, experiences, or the like, whether true or fictitious |
| **Central/Main Idea** | The author’s most important idea or the cognitive catalyst for the creation of his work. Idea - Any conception existing in the mind as a result of mental understanding, awareness, or activity |
| **Theme** | A unifying or dominant idea or motif. Often the answer to the question, “What did I learn?” |
| **Explicit** | Clear, leaving no room for interpretation, leaving nothing merely implied |
| **Infer** | To deduce, conclude, to derive by reasoning; to guess, figure out or surmise from evidence. An “inference” is the answer to the question, “Why is that/it there?” |
| **Summarize** | To state or express in concise form the essential components of something, usually chronologically |
| **Evidence** | That which proves or disproves; that which makes plain or clear. Facts |
| **Structure** | Essential elements of something. The relationship or organization of component parts |
| **Figurative language** | Based in figures of speech, especially metaphorical; not literal; expand meaning |
| **Analyze** | To break down into its constituents parts and examine them; determine meaning from |
| **Context** | The parts of a written or spoken statement that precede or follow a specific word or passage, usually influencing its meaning or effect |
| **Cite** | To quote specifically, recall |
| **Evaluate** | To make a judgment, to set a value on |
| **Assess** | To measure, to determine the amount of |
| **Argument** | A process of reasoning, a discussion involving different points of view, a set of reasons why something is true |