

The Second Read

Eight activities

Activity 1: The two reads

From the story, describe the first read and the second read. What is each one for? What goes wrong if the first read is skipped - or if there is only a first read?

Activity 2: Rain or thunder?

Label each fictional review comment R (rain - fixable and true, take it) or T (thunder - taste, tone, or a jab, let it go).

1. "Chapter two says the trip was in March, but chapter four says April."
2. "This is babyish."
3. "You never say what happened to the money."
4. "I don't like your main character."
5. "The last paragraph repeats the first."
6. "Nobody writes like this anymore." Then: what makes 1 and 4 different, when both might sting the same?

Activity 3: Keeping the hamster

Chuma keeps the opening anecdote and says why. What is her reason? Why is keeping it NOT the same as ignoring the review? What is the difference between extraction and surrender, in her week?

Activity 4: Review arithmetic (all numbers made up for practice)

A review has 30 comments. 6 are fixable-and-true, 20 are taste, 4 are pure jabs. What percent is rain? If the writer fixes all 6 rains in 2 evenings, how many fixes per evening? If she had also fought the 4 jabs at 15 minutes each, how much time would that have cost for zero improvement? Show your steps.

Activity 5: "The only page I read twice"

Morah never apologizes for her tone, and the story never asks her to. What does her last line tell Chuma - and the reader - about the thunder? Does a harsh reviewer being partly right make the harshness kind? (Honest answers can disagree.)

Activity 6: Draw the packet

Draw the packet on Chuma's desk during the second read: the red marks, the pencil, the two underlined spots. Only what can be seen - no labels for feelings. Caption with one line from the story.

Activity 7: Zinna's recipes - planning for a fictional case

A teen named Zinna writes the recipe column for the class newsletter, and the faculty advisor returns her column with a harsh note and eleven red comments. Write what her first read is for, what the pencil does on the second read, two plausible rain comments, and one thing she might keep with a reason. One sentence each, with names.

Activity 8: Word grid

Find eight words left to right. Row/column numbering begins at 1.

Q	Z	X	J	R	E	D	B	F	Y
P	A	G	E	L	M	N	O	R	S
T	C	D	E	A	M	A	R	K	J
K	T	A	K	E	Y	G	H	U	P
L	M	N	L	E	A	V	E	D	E
A	I	Q	Z	X	T	R	U	E	B
F	I	X	H	U	P	L	M	N	O
R	S	T	C	D	E	T	W	O	Z
X	J	K	V	W	B	F	Y	G	H
U	P	L	M	N	O	R	S	T	C

RED, PAGE, MARK, TAKE, LEAVE, TRUE, FIX, TWO. Which two words name what Chuma does with the rain and what she does with the thunder?