

NO PREP! PRINT AND GO!

# BOSTON CELTICS CLOSE READS FOR BIG KIDS



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Larry Bird

**Directions:** Read each passage using Close Reading strategies and answering questions.

1. "I've got a theory that if you give 100% of the time, eventually, by the end," Larry said.
2. Have you ever wondered how some people work to beat the odds and have you ever wondered how they do it? Larry had a definite and at those times, he grew to wish the things and a man that worked two in Larry Bird was born in West Baden, Indiana on December 7, 1946.
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Boston Celtics

**Directions:** Use the selection to answer the questions.

1. How is this text organized?  
A. Problem-Solution  
B. Cause and Effect  
C. Compare and Contrast  
D. Chronological Order
2. Larry Bird received all of the following awards, except  
A. The Naismith Award  
B. The Wooden Award  
C. The NCAA Championship  
D. The USBWA College Player of the Year Award
3. "Larry Bird is a... of these inspiring and assiduous individuals who... be an NBA success story."  
Using a thesaurus, determine a synonym for **assiduous**?  
A. sluggish  
B. inattentive  
C. laughing  
D. hard-working
4. Explain the Larry Bird quote at the beginning of the selection. What does it mean to you?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Boston Celtics

**Directions:** Read each passage using Close Reading strategies and answering questions.

1. You have probably never really thought about the power teacher has probably had you brainstorm to come up with did you know that the Boston Celtics got their name from a session?
2. It was the summer of 1946 when Walter Brown, a Boston basketball team founder, came up with the name for the Boston Celtics. As possible in Boston Garden. In a discussion by McHugh, the head of publicity for Boston Garden, of Unicorns, Whitwinds, and Olympics. But it was Brown who won the name for the Boston Celtics after considering the large population of Boston. They dressed them in green uniforms and began.
3. The Boston Celtics played their very first game on November 1, 1946. The staff of the game was geky and the backboard was damaged during player warm-ups. The game went all out on a practice dunk. The Celtics won the game 55-57 against the Chicago Stags and the Hawks during their first disconcerting session.
4. While the Boston Celtics struggled in their first years, it was the hiring of legendary coach Red Auerbach and Bob Cousy that would begin the true glory of the team. In 1957, the Boston Celtics won their first NBA championship.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Boston Celtics

**Directions:** Use the selection to answer the questions.

1. What is the author's purpose for writing this selection?  
A. To entertain readers with a story about football.  
B. To persuade readers to root for the Boston Celtics.  
C. To explain to readers how to become a basketball player.  
D. To inform readers about the Boston Celtics.
2. All of the following statements are true about the Boston Celtics:  
A. The Boston Celtics are a professional team.  
B. The Boston Celtics got their name from a basketball session.  
C. The Boston Celtics have won twenty-four NBA Championships.  
D. The Boston Celtics played their first game in 1946.
3. The Celtics were... against the... during...

Using context clues, determine the meaning of the word "disconcerting".  
A. joyful  
B. nervous  
C. happy  
D. surprising

4. Explain how the Celtics became successful.

Mrs. ...  
A LANGUAGE ARTS CLASSROOM

# Inspiration and Directions for Use

## Inspiration...

Close reading is a strategy I implemented with my students to enhance their understanding of text. Many of my students were struggling to navigate grade-level reading passages effectively. They required a more systematic process to gain a better understanding of what they were reading. By having them read a text multiple times and mark it up while reading, they became more focused and attentive readers.

I came up with the acronym FRUIT, to help my students grasp the steps of CLOSE reading, which you will see described and broken down on the following pages. This strategy has worked well for my students, and I am excited to share it with you.

I created these high interest reading selections across different genres to keep my students engaged in their close reading. I hope your students find them just as appealing as mine.

## Directions for Use...

- Use these passages for weekly reading homework, center work, read-to-self, read-to-someone, small group, or one-on-one intervention. The use cases are endless.
- Print out the passages, questions, and organizers.
- Teach students the Close Reading Strategies-FRUIT.
- Watch as your students become more engaged, independent readers capable of answering text dependent questions.



# What is CLOSE READING?

Close Reading is a strategy students can use to gain a better understanding of the text being read.

Close Reading helps students become more focused and attentive readers when they utilize the following steps:

- read the passage multiple times
- mark up the text as it is being read
- answer text dependent questions
- respond in writing, citing evidence from the text

## CCSS Standards Reference:

4-6 RL. 10: Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.





# CLOSE READING Strategies

- Pre-Reading: **FOCUS** your thinking by reading each question connected to the reading selection.
- Read #1: **READ** the title and selection. Record any connections (text-self, text-text, text-world) you make to the title and text as you read.
- Read #2: **UNDERLINE** any answers you find in the text as you read.
- Read #3: **IDENTIFY** all answers and any evidence that will help you answer short and extended response questions. As you answer the questions, **TAG** the paragraph where you located your answer next to the question.

REMEMBER:

**FRUIT**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Boston Celtics

**Directions:** Read each passage using Close Reading strategies and complete the corresponding questions.

You have probably never really thought about the power of brainstorming. Your teacher has probably had you brainstorm to come up with ideas for writing, but did you know that the Boston Celtics got their name from a brainstorming session?

It was the summer of 1946 when Walter Brown, a Boston hockey fan and basketball team founder, came up with the name for the basketball team that would win more championships than any other NBA team as well as fill as many seats as possible in Boston Garden. In a discussion between Brown and Howie McHugh, the head of publicity for Boston Garden, they considered names like the Unicorns, Whirlwinds, and Olympics. But it was Brown who came up with the Boston Celtics after considering the large population of Irish immigrants living in Boston. They dressed them in green uniforms, and the Boston Celtics' story began.

The Boston Celtics played their very first game on November 5, 1946, in front of 4,329 fans. The start of the game was delayed an hour because a wooden backboard was damaged during player warm-ups when an ambitious player went all out on a practice dunk. The Celtics would go on to lose their very first game 55-57 against the Chicago Stags and tie for last place with the Toronto Huskies during this first disconcerting season.

While the Boston Celtics struggled in this first season and for the first four seasons, it was the hiring of legendary coach Red Auerbach and Hall of Fame player Bob Cousy that would begin the true greatness of this renowned basketball team. In 1957, the Boston Celtics won their first NBA championship and would go on to win eight more NBA championships between 1959 and 1966.

The Boston Celtics have won the most NBA championships, with a total of seventeen. In addition, the Boston Celtics have the most players in the Hall of Fame, with forty. While they have not had a championship run quite like they did in the 1950's and 1960's, they had a great streak in the 1980's with three NBA Championships and will continue to be a force to be reckoned with for many decades to come.



# The Boston Celtics

**Directions:** Use the selection to answer the questions.

1. What is the author's purpose for writing this selection?
  - A. To entertain readers with a story about football.
  - B. To persuade readers to root for the Boston Celtics
  - C. To explain to readers how to become a basketball player.
  - D. To inform readers about the Boston Celtics.
2. All of the following statements are true about the Boston Celtics except
  - A. The Boston Celtics are a basketball team.
  - B. The Boston Celtics got their name from a brainstorm session.
  - C. The Boston Celtics have won twenty four NBA Championships.
  - D. The Boston Celtics played their first game in 1946.
3. "The Celtics would go on to lose that very first game 55-57 against the Chicago Stags and tie for last place with the Toronto Huskies during this first disconcerting season."

Using context clues, determine the meaning of **disconcerting**?

- A. prosperous
  - B. upsetting
  - C. successful
  - D. long-winded
4. List four facts found in the selection. Explain why these statements are facts.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Larry Bird

**Directions:** Read each passage using Close Reading strategies and complete the corresponding questions.

"I've got a theory that if you give 100% all of the time, somehow, things will work out in the end." –Larry Bird

Have you ever wondered how some people work to beat the odds while others struggle and resort to self-pity? Larry Bird is definitely one of those inspiring and assiduous individuals who was determined to be an NBA success story.

Larry Bird was born in West Baden, Indiana, on December 7, 1956, to Georgia and Joe Bird. He grew up with five siblings and a mom who worked two jobs to support the family. In high school, Larry's parents divorced, and about a year after the divorce, Larry's father took his own life. Larry has shared that it was basketball that allowed him to escape from his family's struggles.

Bird was a stand-out basketball player at Springs Valley High School and remains the school's all-time leading scorer. After high school, he was recruited by Bob Knight and was set to play for the Indiana University Hoosiers, but after a short time on campus, he realized that the school was too big for his comfort level. He withdrew from IU and chose to attend a community college closer to home.

He enrolled at Indiana State the following year, where he would lead his team to the NCAA Championship game during his senior year. While Bird and the Indiana State Sycamores fell short to Earvin "Magic" Johnson and the rest of the Michigan State Spartans in that championship game, Larry Bird would leave Indiana State after his senior year with the USBWA College Player of the Year Award, the Naismith Award, the Wooden Award, and holding the record as the fifth highest scorer in NCAA history. These accolades are even more impressive when considering that Bird only played at Indiana State for three seasons.

In 1979, Bird headed to the Boston Celtics as their number one draft pick. He immediately demonstrated that he was a powerful force in the NBA, averaging 21.3 points and 10.4 rebounds per game. He has never been one to claim that he was the quickest or the strongest, but his work ethic made him a threat to all of his opponents. He played his entire thirteen-year career with the Boston Celtics, leading them to the NBA playoffs twelve times and winning three NBA championships. He was the NBA's Most Valuable Player in 1990, and when he retired in 1992, he had scored a total of 21,791 points in his NBA career.

While he faced challenges in life, he beat the odds with hard work and tenacity. He is a legendary Boston Celtic and NBA star. He is proof that, with 100% effort, anything can be achieved.



# Larry Bird

**Directions:** Use the selection to answer the questions.

1. How is this text organized?

- A. Problem-Solution Order
- B. Cause and Effect Order
- C. Compare and Contrast Order
- D. Chronological Order

2. Larry Bird received all of the following awards except

- A. The Naismith Award
- B. The Wooden Award
- C. The NCAA Championship Award
- D. The USBWA College Player of the Year Award

3. "Larry Bird is definitely one of those inspiring and assiduous individuals who was determined to be an NBA success story."

Using context clues, determine a synonym for **assiduous**?

- A. struggling
- B. inadequate
- C. laughable
- D. hard-working

4. Explain the Larry Bird quote at the beginning of the selection. What do you think he means by "100%"? In what way could you apply this quote to your life?

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# Answer Key

## The Boston Celtics

1. D
2. C
3. B
4. Student answers will vary, but some facts from the selection are:
  - Walter Brown came up with the name Boston Celtics during a brainstorm session.
  - The Celtics played at Boston Garden.
  - The Celtics played their first game on November 5, 1946.
  - The Celtics first game was delayed due to a broken backboard.
  - In 1957, the Boston Celtics won their first NBA Championship and would go on to win eight more NBA Championships between the years of 1959-1966.
  - The Boston Celtics have won the most NBA Championships with a total of seventeen.
  - In addition, the Boston Celtics have the most players in the Hall of Fame with twenty four.

## Larry Bird

1. D
2. C
3. D
4. Student answers will vary, but a response should read similar to this:

The quote "I've got a theory that if you give 100% all of the time, somehow, things will work out in the end," means that when you give all of your effort toward something, you will be successful in the end. If you study for a test and give your best effort, you will do well on that test.



# THANK YOU!



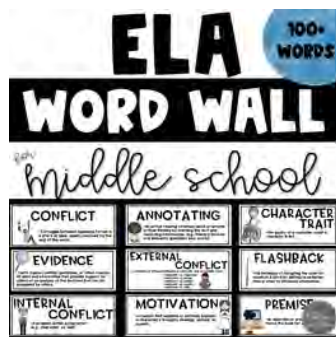
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