Predicting

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

> **predicting:** the process of using text clues to make a reasonable guess about what happens next in a story

HERE'S HOW

Step 1: Keep asking yourself: What might happen next?

Step 2: Find clues in the text.
Look for hints of things to come. Weigh the details of plot, character and setting against your own experiences. Include knowledge from previous reading. Ask yourself questions such as the following:

Plot
- What events hint at what is to come?
- Based on similar plots or your own experience, what do you expect to happen?

Character
- What has the narrator, or storytelling voice, said about a character?
- What have other characters said?
- What do dialogue, actions, appearance, and behavior toward others lead you to expect about the character?
- In your experience, how do people in such circumstances behave?

Setting
- How does the author describe the setting?
- What mood does the description of setting create?
- Based on experience, what outcomes could happen in this setting?

Step 3: Predict what you think will happen next.
Form an idea of what the most likely outcome is. You may wish to write it down or share it with a fellow reader.

Step 4: Read on to confirm or revise your prediction.
As you continue reading, see if your prediction happens. If it does, then predict the next outcome. If things begin to turn out differently, change a prediction. You help yourself to keep track of how the story's action develops.