

Skill-Building Book Tips

7 Essential Life Skills

Dive into *Nate the Great* in a way that highlights Critical Thinking, a Life Skill that promotes Executive Functions. This Life Skill is the ongoing search for **valid and reliable knowledge to guide beliefs, decisions and actions.**

Tip

Nate the Great understands that to be a detective, everything counts, and he has to look for clues everywhere. For example, he notices that Annie likes yellow.

Ask your child:

- “What else does Nate the Great notice?”

Skill

In order to **think critically**, children need to be **observant**.

Tip

Ask your child:

- “What theories does Nate the Great develop to find the missing painting?”

Skill

Critical Thinking centers on developing **theories or hypotheses: proposed explanations based on evidence that can be tested.**

Tip

Ask your child how Nate the Great tests his theories or hypotheses. Include what questions he asks (such as if there are any trapdoors or secret passages in Annie’s house) and how he conducts experiments to test his theories (such as digging for the picture in Annie’s yard).

Skill

Critical Thinking involves testing theories by **asking questions and conducting experiments.**

Tip

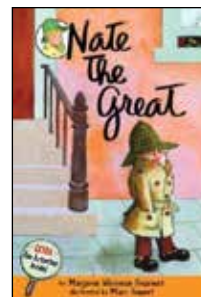
Ask your child:

- “What problems did Nate the Great encounter as he tried to solve the mystery? How did he solve these problems?”

Nate the Great

By Marjorie Weinman Sharmat

Nate the Great is on the case! With dry humor, this classic early chapter book introduces readers to a boy detective tracking clues, interviewing suspects and finding whatever’s missing. It’s a delightful introduction to noir for growing readers.



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Skill

Problem solving is key to Critical Thinking, which calls on **Executive Function** skills.

Tip

Nate the Great finally solves the mystery by remembering what happens when you mix colors.

Ask your child if they have ever solved a mystery by remembering valid and accurate information.

Skill

Critical Thinking includes **being able to remember previous experiences and information and apply this knowledge to the present.**

At the end of the book, there are lots of suggested activities. Your child might enjoy some of these. Remember to point out the times she's using Critical Thinking skills in these activities or in other things.

These tips sheets were developed by *Mind in the Making*, in collaboration with First Book. Find more books and materials on the First Book Marketplace, a resource available exclusively to educators and programs serving children in need. **Visit: www.fbmarketplace.org.**