

BECOME A STRATEGIC READER

You are about to begin a wonderful journey. Excitement and adventure are just a few pages away as you begin reading this first book in the Susie's Shoeries series.

Reading is not just saying words or hearing them read to you. Reading is a search for meaning ... a way for you to share other people's thoughts and experiences and grow the meaning of your own life.

To get the most out of a reading experience, there are things good readers do that make them better readers and better able to understand and remember what they have read. Looking at the title and cover of a book can give you clues as to what a book is about, who the characters are, and where the story takes place.

So, good readers have questions about a book even **before** they read the first page.

Once they start reading, new questions come up **during** the reading itself.

As they finish a chapter, new thoughts emerge and good readers ask themselves **after** reading questions like, "I wonder what will happen next?"

Look at the cover of Susie's Shoeries. Let's start with the title. What does the title make you think the book is about? As you look at the drawing, who do you think is the main character of this book? Where do you think the main character lives? How old do you think the main character is? What kind of a person is the main character? What do you think is one of the main character's favorite things to eat? Now start reading and see if you were right!

There is a surprise recipe at the end of the book. You can also download it in the "Cooking Lesson" section of the website. You and your friends and family can make it just like the characters in this book. Yummy, yummy! What do you think will come out of your oven once you have followed the recipe?

For more information about this book and its characters, please go to the [Susie's Shoeries](#) web site,

www.susiesshoeries.com.

Here, you can actually listen to the author read chapters of the book to you and learn more about how this story was created.

If you are interested in becoming the best reader you can be, you can find **before**, **during**, and **after** questions on the web site, to guide your understanding of the story.

Please pay attention to which questions are to be discussed **before** reading, versus **during** reading, or **after** reading. If you get ahead of yourself, you may ruin surprises that are meant to be exciting and mystifying.

Make sure you have read a few pages of each chapter before you read the **during** questions.

Finish the chapter before looking at the **after** questions ... to have the most fun and the best experience with this book. You and your friends and family can download and discuss them as a part of your own *Book Club*. With a little hot chocolate and a piece of you-know-what, you can enjoy this book and the other books in the [Susie's Shoeries](#) series that will follow.

Before Reading Chapter One:

1. When you look at the cover of Susie's Shoesies, what does it make you think the story is about?
2. Where do you think the story takes place?
3. Who does most of the cooking in your family?
4. Name something that smelled really good while it was cooking in your house?
5. Who was the last visitor to come and stay at your house?
6. Do you have a bedroom all to yourself or does someone share your room with you?
7. Do you like to have sleepovers?

Word-Play for Chapter One:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

they're	Susie's
their	shoesies
there	Gettysburg
hair	Pittsburgh
fair	
care	
dare	

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Do you know the difference between an "open" and a "closed" syllable? Can you find an example of each in one of these words?

extraordinary	inspired
confirming	glimpse
Lafayette	remarkable
Kiev, Russia	relationship

During Reading Chapter One:

1. How old was Granny Ella going to be on her next birthday?
2. In what country was Granny Ella born?
3. What was Granny Ella's childhood home-life like?

After Reading Chapter One:

1. Did any members of your family come to America by boat?
2. How many days did it take the boat to bring Granny Ella to America?
3. Where did Granny Ella's father settle when he came to America?
4. What does "wise beyond their young years" mean?

Before Reading Chapter Two:

1. Do you have any brothers or sisters and, if so, whom do you play with the most?
2. Can you be great friends with someone and, at the same time, also get into disagreements with them?
3. Has anyone in your family had a serious accident or illness and, if so, how did you feel when you found out about it?
4. What is the most special birthday present you have ever gotten?

Word-Play for Chapter Two:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

to	gooey
too	food
two	moon
chew	look
threw	cook
through	breathe/breath

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

emotional	unexpected
confident	sequins
comedian	electrified
protectively	seamstress
quizzically	nightstand
delicious	therapy

During Reading Chapter Two:

1. How old was Susie's brother?
2. What was the name of the Gardner family's dog?
3. How would you feel if someone in your family got most of the attention?
4. Why was Susie's mother so proud of her?

After Reading Chapter Two:

1. Why did Bennett think there was a fire in Susie's room?
2. Where did Granny Ella get the present she gave Susie?
3. Why did Granny Ella and Susie's Mom have tears in their eyes?
4. What does "will never fade from your heart" mean?

Before Reading Chapter Three:

1. What are some of the things you have talked to your Grandmother about?
2. Have you ever had to write a report or give a presentation in school about a famous person and, if so, who did you study?
3. Do you have any pictures of members of your family in your room?
4. Have you ever traveled to a foreign country and, if so, where?

Word-Play for Chapter Three:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

burning	curse
turning	nurse
learning	worse

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

discrimination	convictions
inferior	comforting
sweetheart	famous
statue	revolution
promise	accomplish
Philadelphia	

During Reading Chapter Three:

1. About whom did Susie write her school report?
2. What does the word 'discrimination' mean?
3. In 1948, who did Granny Ella hear speaking in Paris, France?
4. In what sport is Susie really talented?

After Reading Chapter Three:

1. Have you ever felt "inferior" to someone?
2. Who were the 'founding fathers' of our country?
3. What did Eleanor Roosevelt mean when she said, "It's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness?"
4. What does it mean to "resign" from an organization?
5. What do you think will happen after Susie falls asleep?

Before Reading Chapter Four:

1. Talk about a dream you once had that felt very, very real?
2. Who are your favorite singers and actors?
3. Describe your bedroom.

Word-Play for Chapter Four:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

pool	received
tool	believed
cool	leave
rule	bed
	said
	instead

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

ceiling	openings
membership	remarkable
library	courage
noticed	obvious

During Reading Chapter Four:

1. Have you ever been to the White House?
2. What is the title of the President's wife?
3. Who are two of Susie's favorite stars?
4. What was happening to one of Susie's friend's family that upset her?
5. If you could go back in time, what event would you hope to visit?

After Reading Chapter Four:

1. How did Harry Truman become President?
2. How would you feel if you had the chance to meet a 'First Lady'?
3. What would you do if one of your friends was being discriminated against?
4. Why do you think Mrs. Roosevelt was so friendly with the Trumans?
5. Where do you think the meeting Susie and Mrs. Roosevelt are going to is being held?
6. Do you think Susie really is visiting Eleanor Roosevelt? Why or why not?

Before Reading Chapter Five:

1. Have you ever been inside a limousine or antique car and, if so, what was it like?
2. What newspapers and magazines does your family read?
3. Have you ever been on a train or airplane and, if so, to where did you travel?
4. What do you know about the United Nations?

Word-Play for Chapter Five:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

rain	woke
train	broke
pain	oak
plane	soak
crane	cloak
four	other
for	brother
before	bother
tour	boot
door	suit
	suitcase

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

confusing	assembly
bothering	California
overwhelmed	instincts
motorcycles	enormous

During Reading Chapter Five:

1. Why were there cars in front and behind Mrs. Roosevelt's car?
2. Why were people waving at Mrs. Roosevelt's car?
3. Why would Susie and Mrs. Roosevelt need to take a plane?

After Reading Chapter Five:

1. Have you ever been excited and scared at the same time? When?
2. Across what ocean did Susie and Mrs. Roosevelt's plane have to fly?
3. What do you think Susie's family thought of all this?
4. What did Granny Ella mean when she wrote to Susie and said, "Trust your heart."

Before Reading Chapter Six:

1. Name some different types of planes that you have seen or read about?
2. Have you ever been to a sleep-over?
3. Are palaces real or do they just exist in fairy tales?

Word-Play for Chapter Six:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

see	vain
sleep	train
keep	stain
leap	lane
tea	cane
white	plane
site	plain
night	Wright Brothers

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

dignity	equality
countries	delegation
propellers	commission
apparently	overwhelmed
princess	attention

During Reading Chapter Six:

1. What color was the plane Susie was going on?
2. What is a "delegation"?
3. Why did Mrs. Roosevelt feel the invention of the airplane had such an impact on the outcome of World War II?

After Reading Chapter Six:

1. What is the name of the document the United States has guarantees Human Rights?
2. When was the last time you were proud of someone you knew?
3. Why does Mrs. Roosevelt tell Susie that human rights begin "close to home"?

Before Reading Chapter Seven:

1. Has the wind ever blown your hat off and, if so, when?
2. What does the 'Presidential Seal' look like?
3. What is your favorite thing to eat in a restaurant?
4. Who invented 'French Fries'?

Word-Play for Chapter Seven:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

dream	born
cream	corn
team	torn
seem	mourn

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

emblem	delicious
towels	rejoin
approached	sensation
pressure	hanger

During Reading Chapter Seven:

1. Who do you think is going to share the bedroom with Susie?
2. What did Susie order for dinner the first night on the plane?
3. Why did Susie feel pressure in her ears?

After Reading Chapter Seven:

1. Why did they turn off the lights in the cabin?
2. Why were they celebrating Susie's birthday the night before?
3. Why did Susie say, "I feel like pinching myself ...?"
4. Why is Susie afraid that this may all just be a dream?

Before Reading Chapter Eight:

1. What do you know about Franklin Roosevelt?
2. Have you ever had to give a speech to a large group of people and, if so, how did it make you feel?
3. Have you ever gone along with your parents when they voted?
4. How would you feel if a law was passed that said "People with blonde hair are not allowed to vote any more"?

Word-Play for Chapter Eight:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

wear	share
bear	sharing
dear	care
fear	caring
meat	bee
meet	beat

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

religion	suffered
foreign	bedspread
childhood	protested
criticized	embarrassment
expression	Diphtheria
nervous	journey
Suffragettes	superficial

During Reading Chapter Eight:

1. What does "Children should be seen and not heard" mean?
2. What do Susie's granny and Mrs. Roosevelt have in common?
3. What were the women called who protested that women did not have equal rights?

After Reading Chapter Eight:

1. Where did Eleanor Roosevelt spend most of her High School days?
2. Was Mrs. Roosevelt's family rich or poor and how did she feel about it?
3. Why was Franklin Roosevelt proud of his wife?

Before Reading Chapter Nine:

1. What is your favorite thing to have for breakfast?
2. What is your favorite thing to wear to a fancy occasion?
3. What is the name of the most beautiful building you have ever seen?
4. Have you ever worn something that was "passed down" to you or was borrowed and, if so, what did you think of that?

Word-Play for Chapter Nine:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

rise	sweet
surprise	feet
prize	treat
ties	heat
worst	
burst	
first	

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

gentle	security
glistened	outfit
photographers	prepared
prepared	opportunity
brilliant	community
statues	disappoint
gorgeous	

During Reading Chapter Nine:

1. What did Susie think of the outfit Mrs. Roosevelt picked out for her?
2. How old was Susie when Eleanor Roosevelt said, "Happy Birthday, Sweetheart?"
3. How did Mrs. Roosevelt describe Susie to the photographers?

After Reading Chapter Nine:

1. Why did Mrs. Roosevelt think this trip would help Susie's hometown?
2. Why do you think the outfit Eleanor Roosevelt chose for Susie to wear was red, white, and blue?
3. Why did the American delegation need airport security?
4. Did Susie wear her new shoes to the palace? How do you know?

Before Reading Chapter Ten:

1. What were some terrible things that happened in World War II ?
2. Do you speak a foreign language and, if so, when have you used it?
3. Do you have any chandeliers in your house?
4. What do you think the inside of a palace looks like?

Word-Play for Chapter Ten:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

most	ceiling
host	feeling
coast	healing
roast	kneeling

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

enormous	chandeliers
crystal	embroidered
rainbows	foreign
damage	converse
empire	declaration
witness	

During Reading Chapter Ten:

1. Who appointed Eleanor Roosevelt to the United Nations delegation?
2. When sunlight shined on the chandeliers, what happened?
3. What year did Franklin Roosevelt die?
4. What does the term 'allied nations' mean?

After Reading Chapter Ten:

1. Why were so many flags hanging from the walls of the meeting room?
2. For whom do you think the two golden chairs were made?
3. What prepared Mrs. Roosevelt for speaking in front of an international audience?

Before Reading Chapter Eleven:

1. In what ways do different governments treat their citizens differently?
2. What does the word 'civilized' mean to you?
3. Have you ever been to an event held in a ballroom and, if so, when?
4. Have you ever been to a restaurant where they had a buffet and, if so, what was your favorite thing to eat?

Word-Play for Chapter Eleven:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

fire	phone
tire	tone
inspire	own
buffet	
away	

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

hopeful	anxious
patiently	applauded
denying	audience
protective	escorted
keyhole	elegance
responsibility	podium
entitled	thunderous
conscious	imperfections

During Reading Chapter Eleven:

1. Did the delegates like Mrs. Roosevelt's speech?
2. Why was the ceiling of the ballroom painted blue?
3. Why did Mrs. Roosevelt ask the French delegates to speak English, even though she spoke fluent French?

After Reading Chapter Eleven:

1. Why would a country not want to sign the Declaration?
2. Why did the delegate refer to Mrs. Roosevelt as "The First Lady of the World"?
3. Do you believe that people should be treated equally, and if so, why?

Before Reading Chapter Twelve:

1. What is your favorite dessert?
2. What does the word "gooey" mean?
3. Have you or your family ever asked someone to share a recipe with them and, if so, for what dish?
4. Have you ever seen what a restaurant kitchen looks like and, if so, when and where?

Word-Play for Chapter Twelve:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

her	dial
serve	trial
bird	mile
heard	file
brave	
crave	

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

overheard	whisper
envelope	storage
knob	figure
spiral	confident
accomplished	

During Reading Chapter Twelve:

1. Were the people at her table upset with her when Susie asked for a second piece of dessert?
2. Where had Susie had a similar dessert?
3. Why did Mrs. Roosevelt ask Betty to go with Susie to tour the kitchen?

After Reading Chapter Twelve:

1. How could the chef at *Le Palais* have made the same cake as Susie's Granny?
2. Who asked for the cake recipe?
3. How do you think Susie and Betty will get out of the storage room?

Before Reading Chapter Thirteen:

1. What have you been taught to do in case of a fire?
2. Did you ever get lost and, if so, when and where did this happen?
3. How did you find your way?
4. Did anyone notice that you were missing or lost?

Word-Play for Chapter Thirteen:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

succeed	read
proceed	lead
greed	leave
freed	bread/breed

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

disrupted	pantry
medicine	suspicious
twine	ankles
conquering	succeeded
paperweight	

During Reading Chapter Thirteen:

1. What did Susie mean when she said Eleanor Roosevelt was her "role model"?
2. Why were the telephone wires cut?
3. Why did Betty wink at Susie?

After Reading Chapter Thirteen:

1. Why did the kidnapper go back to the ballroom?
2. Did he really care about Susie and Betty?
3. Why did the light coming in under the door remind Susie of her brother?
4. How do you think Susie and Betty will get out of the office?

Before Reading Chapter Fourteen:

1. Has anyone ever stolen anything from you or your family and, if so, when and where?
2. Should all people who are caught stealing be treated the same?
3. Why would someone steal from someone else?
4. What things do you do to make sure your possessions are safe?

Word-Play for Chapter Fourteen:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

law	steal
flaw	deal
claw	feel
gnaw	wheel

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

approached	progressing
treatment	illegally
abandoned	rescued
tugging	humanely
prison	

During Reading Chapter Fourteen:

1. What were the two kidnappers' names?
2. Why did Betty pretend to have a heart attack?
3. Was the Declaration going to be a law?

After Reading Chapter Fourteen:

1. What is the difference between a statement of principles and a law?
2. Why did Susie ask Betty to turn off the light?
3. Why did the rescuers break down the door to the office?
4. In what ways were Susie and Betty smart?
5. In what ways were Susie and Bette brave?
6. What did Mrs. Roosevelt mean by "a good faith effort"?

Before Reading Chapter Fifteen:

1. Why do people gather to see famous people?
2. Have you ever seen or heard a famous person give a speech?
3. If you could meet a famous person, who would you like it to be ... and why?

Word-Play for Chapter Fifteen:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

out	dim
cloud	him
loud	hymn
about	climb
crowd	limb
older	
shoulder	

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

familiar	shocked
distinguished	whispered
eventually	approached

During Reading Chapter Fifteen:

1. Who did Susie think she saw outside *Le Palais*?
3. What made Susie think she knew this person?
4. Why was Susie surprised at the name of the cake?

After Reading Chapter Fifteen:

1. What was the name of the recipe?
2. What was surprising about the way it was written?
3. Where else in the story did you read about a woman having her picture taken in Paris?
4. Who do you think Susie saw in the crowd in Paris, France and why did you choose that person?

Before Reading Chapter Sixteen:

1. When was the last time you were away from home without your family?
2. Did you miss them the whole time you were away or just during certain times?
3. Can you think of something you did that made your parents proud?

Word-Play for Chapter Sixteen:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

calm	thought
balm	bought
palm	caught
	taught
	paused

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

glimpses	witness
instincts	communities
presidential	electrified
aglow	sparkled

During Reading Chapter Sixteen:

1. Why is Paris called 'The City of Lights'?
2. Was Susie proud of Mrs. Roosevelt and, if so, why?
3. What did Susie do when she got back to the plane?

After Reading Chapter Sixteen:

1. Was the meeting at *Le Palais* successful?
2. What was the last thing Susie did before she went to bed on the airplane?
3. What do you think will happen when Susie wakes up?
4. How do you think what Susie saw and learned in Paris will effect her life in Pennsylvania?

Before Reading Chapter Seventeen:

1. Do you know anyone else who has the same birthday as you?
2. If you could get anything you want for your next birthday, what would that be?
3. Do you have your own computer or do you share one with the rest of your family?

Word-Play for Chapter Seventeen:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

ears	know
fears	snow
hears	blow
cheers	grow
deer	froze
	toes
	nose

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

laptop	argue
thorns	research
determination	spunk
Wilma Rudolph	

During Reading Chapter Seventeen:

1. Why did Susie think Bennett gave her the perfect present?
2. Why was Susie so excited about the present her parents gave her?
3. Why was Granny Ella so excited about her birthday present?

After Reading Chapter Seventeen:

1. Who do you think Granny Ella will take with her to Paris?
2. Who did Susie think gave her the nightgown and robe?
3. Who was Wilma Rudolph?

Before Reading Chapter Eighteen:

1. Have you ever misplaced something and then found it in a strange place?
2. Have you ever seen a 'picket line'?
3. Have you ever been to your local Town Hall? Why?
4. How often do you get to see your Grandparents?

Word-Play for Chapter Eighteen:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

bored	happy
board	happier
roared	
chord	
floor	

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

especially	darkness
celebrity	announced
index	recipes
referring	resigning
situation	protest
manager	membership
auction	picket

During Reading Chapter Eighteen:

1. Where did Granny Ella get the cake recipe?
2. What was the name of Susie's friend's family that was not wanted by the country club?
3. What was one of Susie's family's favorite things to have for lunch?
4. What did Susie think they should do to help their friends?

After Reading Chapter Eighteen:

1. Did Susie tell her mother or Grandmother what happened in Paris? Why/Why not?
2. How can picketing a business cause people to change their minds?
3. What did Susie mean when she said, "If we make the news"?

Before Reading Chapter Nineteen:

1. Do you ever watch the news? Why?
2. What is a 'silent auction'?
3. Can children be effective when they stand up for what is right and, if so, in what ways?

Word-Play for Chapter Nineteen:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

fired	few
tired	news
wired	clues
weird	fuse
food	use

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

permit	morning
importantly	youngest
protester	congratulations
exhausted	slogan
commotion	permit
waiters	deserve

During Reading Chapter Nineteen:

1. What was the slogan Bennett thought of for the picketing signs?
2. Where did everyone go for lunch after the golf tournament, and why?
3. What did Susie tell the reporter inspired her to take this action?

After Reading Chapter Nineteen:

1. Why did the phone at Susie's house keep ringing all night?
2. Who was the first person to call?
3. How did Susie's family feel at the end of the day, and why?
4. How do you think Mr. Gage felt at the end of the day?

Before Reading Chapter Twenty:

1. What do you do when you are really exhausted and need to relax?
2. Who do you confide in when you have a problem?
3. Who confides in you when they have a problem?
4. What is your favorite sport to play?

Word-Play for Chapter Twenty:

Why are these words grouped together? How are they the same and how are they different?

shake
shaky
flake
flaky

Here are some word-wall words for now and future reference. What smaller words do you see within some of these words that can help you remember how to read them and spell them in the future? Can you label any "open" and "closed" syllables?

exercises	curve
knocking	drawer
athlete	nearby
moment	muscles

During Reading Chapter Twenty:

1. What sport did Bennett want to play?
2. Was he confident in his sports ability and why or why not?
3. Where did Susie get the book she started to read to her brother?

After Reading Chapter Twenty:

1. Why did Susie decide to take off her shoes before going to bed at the end of the book?
2. What do you think would happen if she had left them on?
3. Have you ever had a dream that came true and, if so, what was it?