

“The Washwoman” by Isaac Bashevis Singer
Reading: Ask Questions to Make Predictions

A **prediction** is an informed guess about what will happen later in a narrative. Predictions are based on details in the text and on your own experience. When **making and verifying predictions**, predict what will happen, and then read on to see if the prediction is correct.

- One way to make predictions is to pause periodically while reading and **ask questions** about text details and events. You can ask yourself questions such as *Why does the author mention this detail? How might it become important later on?* Then, look for the answers to those questions as you read ahead.
- As you read, use the following chart to record your predictions. Then, see how many of your predictions were correct.

DIRECTIONS: *In the left column are some of the major events in “The Washwoman.” As you read, ask yourself questions about what may be the outcome or consequence of each event. Write your questions in the center column. In the right column, record your predictions. The first one has been done for you.*

Event	Question	Prediction
1. The frail old washwoman works hard to produce beautiful, clean laundry.	Will the Singer family be satisfied with her work?	The Singers will like her work and employ her for many years.
2. She has a rich son who does not see her or give her any money.		
3. The rich son gets married but does not invite her to the wedding.		
4. One very cold winter day, the washwoman staggers away under a huge bundle of laundry.		
5. Weeks pass, and she does not return.		