

Why Did You Do It?

This poem asks a character nine questions. The answers create a short poem that looks at motivation.

Benefits of Why Did You Do It

- Examines the motivation behind a character's actions
- Encourages visualization

Types of Stories for Why Did You Do It

Any story that has a strong character who takes action. Some possible stories and a “Why did you do it question.”

Ruth – Why did you stay with Naomi? (Book of Ruth)

Abraham – Why did you obey God when asked to sacrifice Isaac? (Genesis 22)

Eve – Why did you eat the forbidden fruit? (Genesis 3)

Deborah – Why did you agree to go to battle with Barak? (Judges 4-5)

Samson – Why did you destroy the Philistine temple? (Judges 16)

Daniel – Why did you refuse to obey the law of Darius? (Daniel 6)

Directions for Why did you do it?

1. After hearing / reading the story, select one person from the story to be your focus.
2. You will be asked to answer 9 questions as if you are that person.
3. These 9 questions will help you to understand the motivations behind the person's actions. Bear in mind that motivation is often complex so you will be asked, “Why did you do it?” four times.

4. On your first time answering the questions, simply jot down your ideas. If one of the questions is particularly difficult, feel free to skip that question or reword it a bit. The questions are simply there to direct your study of the story and to help you visualize the events.
5. After you have answered each question, return to it to make revisions. Take note of the strong verbs in the sample poem. Also, note that the sample poem incorporates specific details directly from the story. Anyone who has not heard the story could read the sample poem and understand quite a bit of the story.

Samples of completed Why Did You Do It

WHY DID YOU DO IT? Based on story # 52 Balaam’s Donkey Numbers 22: 1-35 Asking the donkey, “Why did you try so you many ways to stop your master?”	
Questions to be answered as a person from one Bible story	The donkey’s answers to the questions – this column is the completed poem.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why did you do it? 2. What was the texture of the air? 3. What was the sound, color, or smell of the weather? 4. Was there a stranger? 5. Why did you do it? 6. Were promises made? 7. Would you do it again? 8. Why did you do it? 9. Why did you do it? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I ran into the field to protect my master. 2. The fresh air of morning cooled my coat. 3. Then a flash of fire from a raised sword pierced the quiet. 4. The angel stood in the path blocking my progress. 5. I ran and scooted and fell out of fear. 6. My master made empty promises to the Lord, 7. But I would try once more to keep him safe. 8. I’m a simple animal doing my job. 9. I know nothing other than to serve.

WHY DID YOU DO IT?

Based on Story #66

King of Trees

Judges 9

Asking Abimelech, "Why did you kill Gideon's sons?"

1. Why did you do it?
2. What was the texture of the air?
3. What was the sound, color, or smell of the weather?
4. Was there a stranger?
5. Why did you do it?
6. Were promises made?
7. Would you do it again?
8. Why did you do it?
9. Why did you do it?

1. I murdered because I had been the rejected son.
2. The air hung heavy with the scent of blood,
3. And clouds scuttled across the sky echoing screams for mercy.
4. My band of thugs and I were strangers in their midst.
5. I did it for the lust of power.
6. My birth destined me to rule, to command, to control.
7. I would slay the 70 sons again but let not one escape.
8. I did it to be a king.
9. I did it because I am Abimelech, the son of a concubine.

<p style="text-align: center;">Why did you do it?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Based on story # Title Scripture reference</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What is the question? Who are you asking?</p>	
<p>Questions to be answered as a person from one Bible story</p>	<p>The person's answers to the questions</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why did you do it? 2. What was the texture of the air? 3. What was the sound, color, or smell of the weather? 4. Was there a stranger? 5. Why did you do it? 6. Were promises made? 7. Would you do it again? 8. Why did you do it? 9. Why did you do it? 	This area is intentionally left blank for the student's answers