1. Explain why reading in English is more difficult than reading in some other languages.

2. List and discuss at least two biological factors that can cause reading problems.

3. If you are reading this book as part of a study group, assign three people to make short presentations on three environmental factors that impact reading ability, instructional, socioeconomic, and early language development.

4. Many children come to school without the prerequisite skills for reading. What are these skills and how might educators influence their acquisition?

5. Assume you are making a presentation to parents of kindergarten and/or first-grade students. How would you explain emergent literacy skills, decontextualized language, and metalinguistic ability?