



Upper Primary

**Comprehension Activity
for the Book By Compost
Stew: An A to Z Recipe for
the Earth by Mary McKenna
Siddal**

**Instructions: Read
Compost Stew carefully,
then answer the questions
below.**



Part 1: Vocabulary and Definitions

Match each word from the book with the correct definition.

Compost

Stew

Decompose

Worms

Organic

- A. To break down or rot naturally.**
- B. A mixture of different ingredients, like a recipe.**
- C. Tiny creatures that help break down compost.**
- D. A mixture of natural waste that turns into soil.**
- E. Something that comes from plants or animals, not man-made.**



Part 2: Understanding the Story

Answer the following questions in full sentences.

**What is the main idea of Compost Stew?
How does the book use the alphabet to
teach about composting?**

**What kinds of things should NOT go into a
compost pile, according to the book?**

**Why do you think the author chose to
write the book as a poem?**

**What are three benefits of composting
for the environment?**



Part 3: Critical Thinking

If you wanted to start composting at home or school, what materials would you need? The book describes composting as a “recipe.” Do you think this is a good comparison? Why or why not?



Imagine you are teaching a younger learner about composting. How would you explain it in three simple steps? Compost Stew encourages people to be Earth stewards. What are other ways we can take care of the environment? If you could add a new letter and ingredient to Compost Stew, what would it be and why?