Questions to Ask During Return Visits to Best Friend Books

BOOK TITLE:

CHARACTERS	
\Box How many characters are in the story?	
\Box Which character is the main character?	
How do the other characters help me get to know the main character?	
□ What is the purpose of each character in the story? How does each character contribute to the story?	
\Box Does the main character change across the story? If so, how?	
How does the main character work to meet the challenge or solve the problem?	
How do the other characters contribute to the challenge? Solution?	
SETTING	
□ Where is this happening?	
□ What is the physical location?	
Is it a real place (playground, apartment)? Or is it imagined in the character's mind (an old box becomes a fort)?	
What is the weather? Climate? Season? And how does this impact the characters and their decisions?	
Does the setting make a difference, or is it just a backdrop for events?	
PLOT	
□ How does the story get started?	
\Box Where and how is tension built?	
\Box What are the challenges or problems for the character(s)?	
What is attempted in an effort to meet the challenge or solve the problem?	
\Box How does the plot move forward?	
How is the plot organized? What structures are employed? What impact do they have?	
ART	
\Box How do the illustrations work to reveal mood and tone?	
Do the illustrations hold a key to information not presented in the text?	
Do the illustrations parallel, support, extend, or enrich the text?	
□ Are there questions raised by the text that can be answered by close examination of the art?	
What do we learn about the setting by close examination of the art?	
What do we learn about the character(s) by a close examination of the art?	
INTERPLAY (How all factors work together to build a story)	
How are the challenges/problems linked to place, weather, or to the personality of the character?	
How do the character's fears, worries, or dreams impact the plot?	
Examine what the author and/or illustrator has done to lead us toward these insights.	