

Question Stems for Text Discussion

FICTION

Thinking Within the Text

Evidence that the reader is gaining the literal meaning of the text

- ✓ Who is telling the story?
- ✓ What is the setting of the story?
- ✓ Who are the characters?
- ✓ What was the problem in the story? What did _____ do to solve the problem?
- ✓ What happened in the story? How did the story end? Can you retell this story using key details?
- ✓ What is this story mostly about?

Thinking About the Text

Evidence of thinking critically about literary elements, text structure/features, & author's purpose/craft

- ✓ Why are you reading this piece? (For entertainment? To get information?)
- ✓ Is this a piece of literature or an informational text?
- ✓ What genre did the writer use? What makes you think that?
- ✓ Is this a good title for this story? Why? Why not? Can you think of another title?
- ✓ What lesson did _____ learn? How do you know this?
- ✓ What was the author trying to teach you? What was the message/lesson/moral of the story?
- ✓ How did the author develop the characters/plot/setting/etc.?
- ✓ Do you like/dislike or admire the character(s)? Why?
- ✓ Why do you think the author said _____?
- ✓ What did the writer mean by _____?
- ✓ How did the writer make this book interesting? Did he/she use any voice techniques?
- ✓ Look at the way the author ended the book. Do you think this is a good ending? Why? Why not?
- ✓ What was the most important part of the story? Why?
- ✓ Find the part in the story where _____?
- ✓ Look back at the text and find some powerful descriptive words that the author used. What do they mean?

Thinking Beyond the Text

Reader is thinking beyond the text by predicting, connecting, inferring & synthesizing

- ✓ Did anything in this story remind you of an experience that you or someone you know has had?
- ✓ Tell me some ways _____ and _____ are alike/different.
- ✓ Tell me how _____ felt when _____. Why?
- ✓ How do you think _____ felt when (or about) _____? What made you think that?
- ✓ Why is _____ important?
- ✓ How does _____ change? What does _____ learn?
- ✓ Describe some character traits of _____. How would you describe _____ as a person?
- ✓ Why did the character act this way?
- ✓ Did you have any questions while you were reading? What were you wondering?
- ✓ What words helped you to visualize (see/hear/feel/create mental images) as you read this story?
- ✓ Why do you think _____? Can you give me an example from the book?
- ✓ Predict what could happen next. How do you know something is going to happen here? What does the writer say that makes you think that?
- ✓ What is a question you still have about _____?
- ✓ What does the word/phrase _____ mean?

Question Stems for Text Discussion

NONFICTION

Thinking Within the Text

Evidence that the reader is gaining the literal meaning of the text

- ✓ Explain what you learned in this book. What new information did you learn from the text?
- ✓ What is this book mostly about? Summarize what you've learned so far.
- ✓ What were some important facts about _____ in this book?
- ✓ What information did you learn from the (chart, map, label, graph, photo, drawing, glossary)?

Thinking About the Text

Evidence of thinking critically about literary elements, text structure/features, & author's purpose/craft

- ✓ Why are you reading this piece? (For entertainment? To get information?)
- ✓ Is this a piece of literature or an informational text?
- ✓ What genre did the writer use? What makes you think that?
- ✓ Is this a good title for this book? Why? Why not? Can you think of another title?
- ✓ Why do you think the author wrote this book (author's purpose)?
- ✓ Why do you think the author said _____?
- ✓ What did the writer mean by _____?
- ✓ How did the writer make this book interesting?
- ✓ What evidence shows the author's opinion or bias about this subject?
- ✓ What was the most important part of the book? Why?
- ✓ How does the author organize this text (text structure)? How does this help you understand the subject?
- ✓ Identify some of the text features used in this text. Tell how they help you understand the subject.
- ✓ Look back at the text and find some important words. Explain what they mean and why they are important.
- ✓ If you were to pick two things to share with others about this subject, what would they be? Why?

Thinking Beyond the Text

Reader is thinking beyond the text by predicting, connecting, inferring & synthesizing

- ✓ What was the most important idea in this book? Why do you think this is important?
- ✓ After reading this, what questions do you still have?
- ✓ How does this new information make you feel? What does the information make you think about this subject (opinion)?
- ✓ Do you have schema or background knowledge about this topic? Does this remind you of anything else you know?
- ✓ How has your thinking changed?
- ✓ Based on the information in the text, what would happen if...?
- ✓ What can you infer about...? What evidence in the text supports your thinking?