



Developing Reading Skills Through Questioning

Comprehension

- Describe...
- Can... have more than one meaning?
- Who are the key characters in the book?
- What did... do?
- Identify a word from paragraph 2 which shows that...
- Where and when did the story take place?
- Find 3 words that describe your favourite character.
- Give one example...
- Which paragraph tells you...?
- How many...?
- Find some words or phrases that tell you about the setting?
- Which character...?
- Where did... go?
- Which paragraph tells you...?
- How many...?
- What happened in the story?
- Which word told you that...?
- What happened at...?
- True/False based on the text.
- Where are...?
- Why do...?
- What does... mean?
- What was happening at the beginning of the story?

Inference

- Why did ... do ...?
- What do you think about ...?
- What is the author trying to explain?
- What in the text makes you think that ...?
- Give me another way in which ...
- Find the word/s that suggest/s ...
- If you were the character what would you do / say / think / feel ...?
- What clues can you find to tell you about ...?
- How is the character feeling?
- Why is the character feeling like this?
- How is this situation similar to ...?
- How is the situation different from? Explain your views on ...
- What is your opinion? Justify / convince the reader.
- How is the general mood / atmosphere created?
- How is ... feeling at this stage?
- How could ...'s feelings change?
- What do you think the author feels about ...?
- What tells you he/she feels like this?
- Find two reasons...
- Where does it imply that?
- What might that character write in their diary that night after all that had happened?
- How would the other character have re-told that event from their point of view?
- What do you predict is going to happen next?
- Why do you think that?
- What do you think had already happened before? Why?
- How did the character's actions affect the outcome of the story?
- What did ... mean when they said...?
- Why is ... an appropriate title for this poem?
- What assumptions have you already made?

Vocabulary

- Why did the author choose that word?
- What effect does that word have?
- Find the word / line / sentence, which suggests ...
- What is the purpose of the word choice?
- What word would you choose?
- How does the author describe ... and why does he/she describe it in this way? Give me an alternative word that would fit into this sentence.
- Can you find a word that means the same as...?
- What effect is the author trying to convey?
- What feelings do the words create?
- What picture does this put into your mind?
- Why has the author used a question?
- N.B. Look for imagery – similes / metaphors / personification / alliteration and discuss the purposes effect.
- What does this onomatopoeic word tell you?
- Can you find the metaphor in the poem?
- What impression does it give you?
- Which feature does the author use in a (specified) piece of text? Why?
- What does (word/phrase) mean? Why has the author used this?
- What has the author used in the text to make this character funny/sad/angry/tense? How effective is this?
- How has the author used the text to make the situation or event angry/tense? Comment on the effect. Think of another more/less emotive word you can substitute here.
- What different effect would your word have?
- As a reader, how do you feel about...?
- How has the author created this feeling?
- Which words and phrases tell you that the author is describing...?
- How could the meaning be changed by altering the punctuation? E.g. commas, full stops, ellipsis, exclamation marks etc. Comment on the effect.
- Comment on the technical language..... and.....?
- Explain why the author used it. What words/phrases indicate the author's attitude?
- How does the author show that... is important?
- Why has the author used repetition? What effect does it have?
- Why have exclamation marks/italics/capitals been used? How does this affect the way you read it?

Prompts for Discussing Reading

- The text has made me feel...
- I wonder why.....
- Some people say that.....
- It reminds me of.....
- I can't remember where we first learnt about _____'s feelings
- I still don't think I know enough about.....
- I'm not sure what I think about.....
- I've got a favourite bit of the book. My favourite bit is ... What is your favourite bit?
- I've found a special word/sentence. It's so good I'm going to try to use it again. My special word/sentence is ... Can you find a special word that you'd like to use again?
- I wonder why
- Perhaps it was
- Maybe it could be
- I was thinking ... what do you think?
- At first I thought ... but now I'm not so sure ... can we all think about it and look for clues?
- Well, do you know, I missed that when I read it ... well-spotted!
- Can we all try to think about? ... because this needs everyone's ideas. John's idea is that ...
- This makes me feel How does it make you feel?
- For me it was exciting when ... Which bits did you find exciting?
- If you were (character) how do you think you would feel? What would you say to ... I might say ... Can you think of something that you might say?
- When I read the title, first pages, I thought this would happen ... I was surprised when ... happened.
- Did anything surprise you in the story?
- When I found out about ... I really wanted the story to end with ... How did you feel about the ending?
- That was very convincing. Well-spotted. Well explained.

Questions about Character

- What does the writer want you to think about this character?
- What is your own view of this character? Can you explain using the text?
- What was the character thinking at this point in the story? How do you know?
- Find words in the text which support your point of view.
- How are these two characters similar? How are they different?
- Why did the character take that action? Did they have more than one reason to do that?
- How can you tell what the character was feeling from what he said?
- Do his actions show you how he was feeling at the time?
- Did the character change his mind? Exactly where in the text does it let you know this?
- What does this information suggest about the character's thoughts?
- How did the character feel about this at the beginning / end of the text?
- What does the writer want the reader to feel about this character?
- How do this character's actions affect the other characters? What do they do/feel about this?
- In this fairy story, who is the hero or heroine and who is the villain?
- Which words or phrases show you clearly which is which?
- Does the writer mainly show this through what the characters do, or through what they say?
- Are there other ways the book makes it clear?