

Text-Dependent Questions



1

Key understanding: Identify the key understandings and insights you want students to learn from the text. (You may use this later to write an essential question.)

2

Build understanding of the “gist”: Start with easier questions about the key points and their details, to help build understanding of what the author is saying. What is the apparent meaning of the text?

Elementary Example

Retell the story using time sequence words such as *first, next, then and finally*.

Secondary Example

In what way does the main character change in the text?

3

Vocabulary and text structure: Craft questions about the most powerful academic words, and text structures (such as cause/effect, problem/solution, compare/contrast, sequence, etc.)

Elementary Example

What does *angle* mean in this passage? How can you tell?

Secondary Example

What does the words *postal* mean in paragraph three? Or, why would the author use this text structure? How does this impact meaning?

4

Author’s purpose and point of view: Ask questions to draw the reader’s attention to genre, author’s purpose, point of view, and multiple perspectives.

Elementary Example

Who tells the story?

Secondary Example

Whose point of view do we see? Whose point of view is not represented in the text? Or, why does the author write this?

5

Inference questions: Challenge students to examine inference on ideas or key details/arguments in the text.

Elementary Example

What caused the bird to fly away? Why do you think that?

Secondary Example

What can we infer about what really happened to the main character? What evidence in the text supports your claim/thinking?

6

Opinion and intertextual questions: Have students assert their opinions or make connections to other texts, and support their claims with evidence from the text.

Elementary Example

How would you describe Ramona Quimby’s family? What in the book makes you think that?

Secondary Example

Think about both authors’ attitudes towards the conversation. Which author do you agree with more? Defend your thinking with evidence from the text.