

Literature Question Stems:

Drawing Inferences:

- ✓ What was the author's purpose in writing this text?
- ✓ What does the author mean when he/she says ____?
- ✓ Which specific details in the text lead you to that conclusion?
- ✓ What can you infer from what you have read so far?
- ✓ Why do you think that ____? Can you give specific examples from the text that support your thinking?

Theme / Main Idea/ Summarizing

- ✓ What is the main idea of this poem/drama/ story?
- ✓ Which of the following best captures the theme of the text?
- ✓ How do the character's actions help determine the theme?
- ✓ How do the character's actions help support the theme?
- ✓ How is the central message conveyed throughout the story?
- ✓ Can you summarize what has happened so far?
- ✓ Convey to your partner in one sentence what the story is about?

Story Elements (character, setting, problem, solution:

- ✓ Describe a character in the story using specific details.
- ✓ Describe the setting of the story using specific details.
- ✓ Describe what happened in the story when ...
- ✓ What do you think _____ looks like (character or setting)?
- ✓ What words does the author use to describe _____(character or setting)?
- ✓ What words let you know what the character was thinking?
- ✓ Why do you think that happened that way in the story?
- ✓ Describe the impact of the setting on the outcome of the story.

Point of View:

- ✓ Is the selection/story written in the first or third person? How do you know?
- ✓ Who is telling the story in this selection?
- ✓ How is the perspective of the narrator different in the stories we read?
- ✓ Are there similarities in the perspective from which these stories are being told?
- ✓ How does the narrator's point of view influence the actions in the story?

Comparing/Contrasting Theme:

- ✓ What is this story about?
- ✓ What is the theme of this text?
- ✓ How is this theme similar to other stories we have read?
- ✓ Can you see any patterns in the events in this story and other stories we have read?
- ✓ How do the events of this text differ from other stories we have read?
- ✓ How is a myth different from a story?
- ✓ How is this version of the story different from the version from (country or culture) ?

Informational Text Question Stems:

Drawing Inferences:

- ✓ What is the message so far?
- ✓ What does the author mean when he/she says ____?
- ✓ Which details in the text led you to that conclusion?
- ✓ Why do you think that ____? Can you give specific examples from the text that support your thinking?
- ✓ What was the purpose of this piece?
- ✓ Give examples of other pieces that were written with the same purpose.

Main Idea/ Summarizing:

- ✓ What is the message so far?
- ✓ What is this passage about?
- ✓ Why do you think that? Can you give some details from the text that supports your thinking?
- ✓ Can you give me a sentence that tells what this text was about?
- ✓ Write a short summary about what you learned.
- ✓ How would you summarize what you have read so far?

Explaining events, procedures, Ideas:

- ✓ Can you explain what is happening in this text?
- ✓ Why do you think this is happening?
- ✓ What is the first step in this procedure? Can you explain what step comes next?
- ✓ What is the main idea of this text?
- ✓ What was the result of _____'s idea?

Text Structure:

- ✓ How is this organized?
- ✓ Is the author comparing ideas?
- ✓ What happened first?
- ✓ What is the problem in this section of the book?
- ✓ What are some of the causes of ...?
- ✓ What happened when...?
- ✓ What was the result of ...?

Compare/Contrast first and second hand accounts:

- ✓ Who is providing the information?
- ✓ Where they there at the time that this happened?
- ✓ Compare the account these two people are giving. What are the differences in how they tell the events?
- ✓ Why do you think the information is different?
- ✓ Do you think that the people are looking at the event in the same way? Why might their focus be different?
- ✓ Why do you think the authors describe the events or experiences differently?

Interpret Information (charts, graphs, tables):

- ✓ What does this chart mean?
- ✓ Can you tell if this is increasing or decreasing?
- ✓ When did this event happen on the time line?
- ✓ How does the diagram help us understand what the topic is?
- ✓ What does the animation mean? Can you explain what the animation is showing?
- ✓ What helped you understand this chart?
- ✓ Is there a legend that can help you figure out what this means?

Explain Author's evidence:

- ✓ Identify at least two points the author is trying to make in this text.
- ✓ Did the author use any evidence to support his thinking?
- ✓ Where on the page does the author use facts to support what he has written?
- ✓ Why did the author write that?
- ✓ Did the author give any reason for writing that?
- ✓ Can you tell me why the author might have written about that?
- ✓ Is there any proof in this text to support what the author says?

Vocabulary / Word meaning Question Stems

Literature

- ✓ What does the word _____ mean in this sentence?

- ✓ Can you read the words or sentences around the word to help you determine its meaning?
- ✓ What does the phrase _____ mean?
- ✓ What strategies can you use to help you find the meaning of the word?
- ✓ In this sentence, the word _____ means _____.
- ✓ Why do you think the author used this word (*mythology term*) to describe _____?

Informational

- ✓ What tools can you use to help you find the meaning of this word?
- ✓ What does the word _____ mean in this sentence?
- ✓ Can you read the sentences around the word to help you determine its meaning?
- ✓ What does the phrase _____ mean?
- ✓ Are there any parts of the word that you know? Can you use that to help you figure out the meaning of the word?
- ✓ What strategies can you use to help you find the meaning of the word?
- ✓ Can you use the computer to help you find the meaning of that word?
- ✓ Where can you look in the book to help you figure out what that word means?