

Reading Questions to Encourage...

Questions to Encourage a Personal Response to the Text

1. What are your first thoughts about this text? What in the text caused those thoughts?
2. What emotions or feelings did you have while reading the text? Identify the parts that caused those feelings.
3. Did anything in this text remind you of anything in your own life?
4. Did this text remind you of any other texts? Movies? Plays? Why?
5. If you could talk to the author of this text, what would you ask about or comment on?
6. If you were going to recommend this text to someone, who would it be? What in the text would that person like?
7. What confused you or surprised you in this text?
8. As you read this text, describe how you felt. For example, were you bored, caught up, thinking about characters, thinking about how you might react if in the same situation, enjoying the authors' writing style, or enjoying the humor or suspense?
9. Did you like the cover of the book? Why or why not? If not, how would you change it?
10. Did you like the title of the book? Why or why not? If not, how would you change it?

Questions to Encourage Reflection About the Plot

1. What went on in this story?
2. What parts of the plot did you find to be the most significant? Why?
3. What were the turning points in this plot for you? Why?
4. What was the most important word in this text? Why?
5. What idea or image or situation meant the most to you as you read this text? Why?
6. What did the author of this text do that helped you enjoy the story? That made you not enjoy the story?
7. If this story were to continue, what do you think would happen next? Why?
8. If you could change the ending, would you? How would you change it?
9. If you were to draw a picture that represented what you found to be important in this text, what would you draw? Why?
10. Evaluate this plot on a scale of 1 to 4 with 1 being "Not worth recommending" and 4 being "Everyone should read this" and tell why you gave it the rating you did.

Questions to Encourage Reflection on the Characters

1. Which character or characters did you most enjoy? Why?
2. Which character or characters did you least enjoy? Why?
3. Do any of the characters remind you of yourself? Which ones? Why?
4. Did you think the characters were believable? Why or why not?
5. Which character or characters did you think learned the hardest or most important lessons in this text? Why did you choose that character?
6. What surprised you most about any of the characters?
7. If you could take on the qualities of any of the characters in this text, what qualities would those be?
8. Which character changed the most in this text? How did that character change? What did you learn about that character in watching that change? What did you learn about yourself?
9. If this text were to be made into a movie, which movie stars would you cast in which roles? Why?
10. If you were to eliminate a character from this text, which character would you choose? Why? How would eliminating that character change the text?

Questions to Encourage Reflection About the Setting

1. What was the setting of this text?
2. Was the setting important to the text? Why or why not?
3. How could you change the setting without changing the outcome?
4. How could you change the setting so that it would affect the outcome?
5. Does this setting remind you of a place you know?
6. Which events in the text are most connected to the setting?
7. How did the author let you know what the setting was?
8. Did the setting affect what the characters did or didn't do?
9. If you could talk to the author about the setting of this book, what would you ask?
10. If you were to write a story, would you choose the setting first or think about characters and the conflicts they would face and let that dictate the choice of setting?

Questions to Encourage Reflection About the Theme

1. What message did you take away from reading this text? Why?
2. Which passage in the text would you consider most significant or most important? Why? Did that passage help shape what you considered to be the message of this text?
3. If you were talking with the author, can you speculate what the author might say the theme is? What is in the text that gives hints to that?
4. How do the title, chapter titles, and/or cover illustration help you determine a theme for the text?
5. How do the changes the main character undergoes help you make a decision about the message of this text?
6. Talk with someone else who has read the same text. What does that person see as the message? If you see different messages, discuss what caused those differences.
7. The plot (the series of events in the text) and the theme (the lesson or message you take away from text) are not the same. Think of the text you just read. What is the plot? What is the theme? How does the plot relate to or affect the theme?
8. What affected your interpretation of the theme the most: the plot, the characters, or the setting?
9. If you were to draw the theme symbolically, what would you draw?
10. Think about several texts you've enjoyed. Do they share similar themes? Different themes? If they share similar themes, what does that tell you about what you are looking for in a book or story?

Questions to Encourage Reflection on the Point of View, Author's Style, and Author

1. Who told the story in the text you just read? Was the narrator a character in the story or an omniscient narrator? How did the narrator affect your reading of this story?
2. How would the text have changed if a different character had told the story?
3. Can you speculate on why the author chose the narrator he or she did to tell this story?
4. How did the author make the story come alive in your mind? What specific words or phrases did the author use to help you see events, characters, and the setting vividly?
5. Find a section of the text that you particularly liked. What did the author do to help you like that section?
6. Look at the beginnings of chapters. What did the author do there to make you want to read the rest of the chapter? Also look at the endings. Did the author do something special to make you want to read on to the next chapter?
7. Is there a particular phrase or sentence in the text that you thought was particularly well said? What is there about that passage that makes it stand out in your mind?
8. Did you like how this author wrote this text? What did you like or not like? Consider things like setting description, use of dialogue, characterization, explanation of conflict, foreshadowing, symbolism, as well as length of chapters, length of sentences, choice of chapter titles, and use of illustrations.
9. Would you want to read another book by this author? Why or why not?
10. What other writer or writers does this author remind you of? Why?

