

BASIC QUESTIONS

- Was there anything you liked about the book?
- What especially caught your attention?
- What would you have liked more of?
- Was there anything you disliked?
- Were there parts that bored you? Did you skip parts? Which ones? Why?
- If you gave up, where did you stop and what stopped you? Was there anything that puzzled you?
- Was there anything that you thought strange?
- Was there anything that you'd never found in a book before?
- Was there anything that took you completely by surprise? Did you notice any apparent inconsistencies?

SETTING

Describes time and place

- Where does this story take place?
- Is the setting really important to the story or could it have happened anywhere?
- Could it have been better if it was set somewhere else?
- Was the setting for this story familiar or unfamiliar to you? Explain your answer.
- Was the setting interesting in itself? Would you like to know more about it?
- Did you get a really clear picture of where the story is set?
- Do any particular words or phrases help you to imagine the place where the story is set?
- Do any words or phrases provide an indication of the time when this story is taking place?

CHARACTER

- Is that character the most important in the story? Or is it really someone else?
- Which character did you feel closest to in the story? Why?
- Which character did you find most interesting? Why?
- Did you dislike any characters in the story? If so why?
- Do any words or phrases help to build up a picture of the character?
- Do you learn about this character from their appearance, what they say or do?
- Did your opinion of this character change while you were reading?

POETRY

Form
Rhyme
Rhythm
Figurative language
Word play
Vocabulary

- Do you hear any repeating patterns in this poem?
- Can you predict what the poet might have used here? (eg: similes)
- Can you hear any patterns in this poem when we clap the rhythm?
- Describe/draw the pictures that poem creates in your mind.
- Do you notice anything special or unusual about the words that the poet has used?
- Are there any words or phrases that you particularly like?
- What do you feel when you read this poem? Sad? Angry?
- Are there any words or phrases that stick in your mind? Explain why.

POINTS OF VIEW

- Who is telling the story? Who is narrating the story? Do we know?
- How do you know who is telling the story?
- Is the story told in the first or third person?
- Who do you feel closest to in this story? Can you say why?
- Through whose eyes do you think you are seeing the story?
- When you were reading the story did you feel you were part of this story or did you feel you were an observer?
- From whose point of view do we learn about characters and events?

PLOT-NARRATIVE STRUCTURE

Events of a story
Order of events
Story shape

- How long did the story take?
- Did the events happen in the order we are told about them in the story?
- Why do you think the writer chose to tell us about events in this order?
- When you think about the things that happen to you, do you always tell the story in the order in which they happen? Or are there sometimes reasons that you don't? What are the reasons?
- Are there some parts of the story that happen in a short time but take a long time to describe?
- Are there some parts of the story that took a long time to happen but were told about quickly or in a few words?

GENERAL NON-FICTION

- What is the purpose of this book? Why would you read it?
- Does this story have a central character?
- What makes it different from a story?
- Does this (non-fiction) book have chapters? How has the author organised the material in the book?
- What could you find out from this book?
- How do you know if the information is accurate?
- What kind of expertise does the author have? How do you know?
- Compare the contents page of a fiction book and a non-fiction book: what do you notice?
- Look at the bibliography: why might this be useful?
- Has one author given information in their book that the other hasn't? What has been left out? Is it important?
- Have the books/authors presented the information in different ways?
- Which is the most effective? Why?
- Where could you find aboutin this book?
- Is there any other way? What's the quickest way?
- How many levels of headings and subheadings does the book have? Are they factual or do they ask questions?
- Do you take notice of the headings when you scan the text?

NON-FICTION

- Which article/letter would most persuade you to change your mind? Why?
- What words/phrases/questions/points were the most powerful in persuading you that hunting was wrong?
- What does the writer want to persuade you to think/do?
- Who is this advert trying to persuade?
- Who wrote this advert/article?
- Why did they write it?
- Can you tell what they think? How?
- Do you think the letter-writer is a friend of the person who will receive it? Why/why not?
- What words/phrases have been used which give you clues that this is a formal letter?
- Highlight the words and phrases that you find in formal documents. Which ones wouldn't you use if you were writing to a friend?
- Why has the author set out the instructions like this?
- Could they have been written any other way?
- How could this be made to sound more friendly and informal?
- How could this be made to sound more formal or serious?
- Highlight the words that tell you which order to follow (eg first, then,after,finally).
- Why are these words useful to the reader? What words indicate that some people think differently (eg however, although) or that there are different points of view (eg on the other hand)?
- What are the main ideas in this paragraph and how are they related?

ILLUSTRATIONS

Photographs - Diagrams - Charts - Tables - Exploded diagrams - Line drawings

- What do diagrams tell you that the words do not?
- If you just look at the pictures, what would you say this book was about?
- What can you find out by looking at the photographs?
- Why is this exploded diagram better than a photograph?

GLOSSARY

- Compare the definitions of.....given in the glossary of at least two books. Which one is clearer?
- When you were doing research about...were there any words that you looked up in the glossary? Was the glossary helpful?

INDEX

- What's the difference between the index and the contents?
- If you want to find out about ... how could you do it? Where would you start?
- What's the best place to look for information about ...?
- If you can't find information in the contents, where else might you look?
- If there isn't an entry in the index, what might you do to find out about....?
- How could I use the search engine to find information about....?
- Why are the sites found organised in this order?