

HOTSs Questions

This list moves through 6 levels of questions based on Bloom's Taxonomy of learning. The first three levels are considered *lower order* questions; the final three levels are considered *higher order*. Higher order questions are what we use for Critical Thinking and Creative Problem Solving. A good reading lesson plan should be catering all levels of Bloom's taxonomy.

You can use this sample list to create questions that are specific to your reading text.

Level 1: Knowledge – Recalling Information

- List of key words: Recognize, List, Describe, Retrieve, Name, Find, Match, Recall, Select, Label, Define, Tell
- List of Question Starters:
 - ❖ What is...?
 - ❖ Who was it that...?
 - ❖ Can you name...?
 - ❖ Describe what happened after...
 - ❖ What happened after...?

Level 2: Comprehension – Demonstrate an understanding of facts, concepts and ideas

- List of key words: Compare, Contrast, Demonstrate, Describe, Interpret, Explain, Extend, Illustrate, Infer, Outline, Relate, Rephrase, Translate, Summarize, Show, Classify
- List of Question Starters:
 - ❖ Can you explain why...?
 - ❖ Can you write in your own words?
 - ❖ Write a brief outline of...
 - ❖ Can you clarify...?
 - ❖ Who do you think?
 - ❖ What was the main idea?

Level 3: Apply – Solve problems by applying knowledge, facts, techniques and rules in a unique way

- List of key words: Apply, Build, Choose, Construct, Demonstrate, Develop, Draw, Experiment with, Illustrate, Interview, Make use of, Model, Organize, Plan, Select, Solve, Utilize
- List of Question Starters:
 - ❖ Do you know of another instance where...?
 - ❖ Demonstrate how certain characters are similar or different?
 - ❖ Illustrate how the belief systems and values of the characters are presented in the story.
 - ❖ What questions would you ask of...?
 - ❖ Can you illustrate...?
 - ❖ What choice does ... (character) face?

Level 4: Analyze – Breaking information into parts to explore connections and relationships

- List of key words: Analyze, Categorize, Classify, Compare, Contrast, Discover, Divide, Examine, Group, Inspect, Sequence, Simplify, Make Distinctions, Relationships, Function, Assume, Conclusions
- List of Question Starters:
 - ❖ Which events could not have happened?
 - ❖ If ... happened, what might the ending have been?
 - ❖ How is... similar to...?
 - ❖ Can you distinguish between...?
 - ❖ What was the turning point?
 - ❖ What was the problem with...?
 - ❖ Why did... changes occur?

Level 5: Evaluate – Justifying or defending a position or course of action

- List of key words: Award, Choose, Defend, Determine, Evaluate, Judge, Justify, Measure, Compare, Mark, Rate, Recommend, Select, Agree, Appraise, Prioritize, Support, Prove, Disprove. Assess, Influence, Value
- List of Question Starters:
 - ❖ Judge the value of...
 - ❖ Can you defend the character's position about...?
 - ❖ Do you think... is a good or bad thing?
 - ❖ Do you believe...?
 - ❖ What are the consequences...?
 - ❖ Why did the character choose...?
 - ❖ How can you determine the character's motivation when...?

Level 6: Synthesize – Generating new ideas, products or ways of viewing things from the learnt concepts

- List of key words: Design, Construct, Produce, Invent, Combine, Compile, Develop, Formulate, Imagine, Modify, Change, Improve, Elaborate, Plan, Propose, Solve
- List of Question Starters:
 - ❖ What would happen if...?
 - ❖ Can you see a possible solution to...?
 - ❖ Do you agree with the actions?...with the outcomes?
 - ❖ What is your opinion of...?
 - ❖ What do you imagine would have been the outcome if... had made a different choice?
 - ❖ Invent a new ending.
 - ❖ What would you cite to defend the actions of...?