

Questions to Support Comprehension of Fiction

Personal and Textual Connections

- Have you ever had similar experiences?
- Does the book remind you of another book?
- Do any of the characters remind you of someone in your life?
- How are the characters, setting, and problems like those in other stories you have read?
- Were you reminded of anything in your own life?

Setting

- Where else could the story take place?
- Could the setting be a real place that exists in our time?
- What words did the author use to describe the place?
- How is the setting like another place you know?

Characters

- Who is the most interesting character? Why?
- Who is the most important character? Why?
- Who is the bravest character? Why?
- Which character taught you the most?
- Who else could be in the story?
- How does one of the characters change? Why?
- What did you learn from one character in the story?
- Are the characters believable? Why or why not?

Plot

- How did the author begin the story to engage the reader?
- What is the story problem? How do you think it will be solved?
- What was the most important part of the story?
- What are the important events in the story?
- Were you able to predict the story ending?
- What lesson does this story teach about life?
- What do you think will happen next in the story?
- Do you think the story really could have happened?
- What two or three sentences summarize the whole story?
- Do you have any unanswered questions about the story?

Theme

- What is the author's message?
- Do you think the title is appropriate for the story?
- Why did the author write this story?

Language

- What are some interesting words, phrases or sentences?
- Where did the author describe something well?
- What were some of the strongest words the author used?
- Was any of the language especially interesting, vivid, or surprising?

Questions to Support Comprehension of Nonfiction

Personal and Textual Connections

- What do you already know about this topic?
- How does this (book, article, topic) remind you of other texts you have read?
- What have you experienced in your life that helps you understand this topic?
- How does the information in this text fit with what you already know?

Content

- What are some of the most important words related to the topic, and what do they mean?
- What are some of the most important ideas related to this topic?
- What did you learn about this topic?
- What does this text make you want to learn more about?

Style

- How has the author made this topic interesting?
- How has the author made it easy for you to find information?

Text Structure/Organization

- What are the ways the author presents information on this topic?

Text Features/Illustrations/Format

- What does the title tell you about this text?
- How do headings and subheadings help you find information in this text?
- What information is provided through illustrations (drawings, diagrams, maps, charts, etc.)?
- Does the total format of the text help you understand the topic better?

Author

- What qualifications does the author have to write this text?
- How does the author use experiences and/or knowledge to do a good job of providing information?

