

# TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS



**Text Dependent Questions** are a critical element in the Common Core State Standards. They require students to dig deeply into the text to answer them. In fact, a text dependent question cannot be answered without using the text; background knowledge and prior experiences should not be included or considered.

To craft effective text dependent questions, you must read and understand the text thoroughly. As you plan a lesson, begin with the end in mind: what do you want students to be able to know and do as a result of the lesson? This may be a written or oral response.

## Close Reading Routine

Ask text dependent questions as part of a close reading routine. After an initial reading, encourage students to go back to the text to find details in the text to support their answers. Reread the text several times over several days:

- **First Read**—focus on most important elements of a text (*Key Ideas and Details*)
- **Second Read**—focus on how the text works (*Craft and Structure*)
- **Third Read**—focus on what the text means to the reader and how it connects to other experiences (*Integration of Knowledge and Ideas*)



## Quote Accurately

**Standard 1** requires students to be able quote accurately and appropriately. That is, they have to select the right information to support their answer. In addition, students should be able to use proper punctuation to quote an original text.

## Question Stems

The question stems on the following pages are samples of the types of questions that require students to revisit and use information in a text. There

are sample questions for each CCSS Standard, sorted by category (Key Ideas and Details, Craft and Structure, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas). Standard 10 focuses on the depth and breadth of the texts that students read and is addressed continuously in reading instruction.

## Revisiting the Text

Effective Text Dependent Questions require students to go back to the text in order to answer them. Add a cue to direct students back to the text to the end of your Text Dependent Question. Questions like “You just read about dog. Tell about a time you played with a dog.”

## Try one of these cues after a Text Dependent Question:

- Remember to use textual evidence to support your ideas.
- Remember to use words and phrases from the text to prove your answer.
- Be sure to include specific evidence from the text to support your ideas.
- Be sure to include specific words and phrases from the text to support your opinion.
- Use specific words or details from the text or illustrations to support your ideas.
- Inferences should be supported by text.
- What in the text helped you to know?
- What words and phrases did the author use that led you to your answer?

# TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

## Key Ideas and Details

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

- What are the key ideas in this text/story?
- What can you infer from the title, headings, and anecdotes in this book?
- Who was the most important character in the story? What makes
- Who, what, where, when, how questions
- What key details help support the main idea of \_\_\_\_\_?
- What key details and/or examples support the main idea of \_\_\_\_\_?
- What have you learned from this [text]?

2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

- Retell the story.
- What is the story or article beginning to be about?
- What is the theme of the story?
- What message was the author trying to share?
- What could the main character have learned that I could also learn?
- What was a moral or lesson in the story?
- Summarize the text.
- Retell the (fables, folk tales from diverse cultures).
- What is the main idea of this text?
- What are the 2 or more main ideas in this text?
- What key supporting details did the author cite?

3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

- Identify characters, setting, major events,
- Explain key details that support the author's message.
- Compare and contrast (characters, setting, events, etc.).
- Explain how \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ interact in this story.
- Describe how (name of character) respond to (major event and/or challenge).
- Explain how (name of character) changed in the story.
- Why does \_\_\_\_\_ think about \_\_\_\_\_?
- How does \_\_\_\_\_ feel about \_\_\_\_\_?
- How does \_\_\_\_\_ show persistence (or other character trait) in \_\_\_\_\_?
- How does this help the reader learn more about \_\_\_\_\_'s character?
- What can we infer about the characters \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?
- What do readers learn about the family's relationship from this section?
- What does \_\_\_\_\_'s conversation with \_\_\_\_\_ reveal?
- What event did the author include to show the reader \_\_\_\_\_?
- Describe connections between \_\_\_\_\_.
- Explain relationships or interactions between 2 or more (individuals, events, ideas, concepts) in this text based on specific information in it.
- Explain the procedures described in this article.

# TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

## Craft and Structure

**4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.**

- What does (word or phrase from the story, figurative language, sensory word,) mean?
- What does *Herculean* (or other Mythology vocabulary) mean in this story?
- Describe how words and phrases (regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem or song
- What kind of text is this? (poem, drama, prose, etc.) How do you know?
- Explain the meaning of (general academic vocabulary word).
- Explain what (domain/content specific word) means.
- Which words really call our attention here? What do we notice as we reread them?
- How does the author's choice of words, the tone of the language, illuminate the author's point of view on the topic?

**5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.**

- What was the (problem, solution)?
- How do (series of chapters, scenes, stanzas) fit together to provide overall structure in this text?
- What text structure did the author use in this text?
- What kind of text is this? (story, article, etc.)
- Look back at the text and see if you can divide it into parts. What parts does the author include?
- Describe the story structure, including beginning, middle, and ending
- Describe the (action, setting) in the story.
- Explain the (structure elements: verse, rhythm, meter of this poem).
- Explain the (structure elements: cast of characters, settings, descriptions, dialogue, stage directions) of this drama/play.
- What might have happened if \_\_\_\_\_ hadn't happened first?
- How did the author organize the ideas in the (article, book, etc.)?
- Explain how you know that the author used a \_\_\_\_\_ text structure.
- What text structure did the author use?

**6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.**

- From what point of view is this story told?
- Who is narrating the story? How do we know?
- Through whose eyes did you see this story?
- Read (two or more accounts of the same event/topic). Analyze the information the authors present.
- What similarities and/or differences are there in (titles of two texts on similar topics)?
- How does the author feel about (topic)?
- How did the graphics help you understand the section about \_\_\_\_\_?
- Distinguish between information provided by pictures and words in the text.
- How does your own point of view compare to the author of \_\_\_\_\_?

# TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

## Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

<p><b>7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe (character, setting, event). Use specific examples from the illustrations and/or words.</li> <li>• Use illustrations and words in print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of characters/setting/ plot.</li> <li>• How did the author use illustrations to engage the reader in the events of the story?</li> <li>• How do the (visual/multimedia elements) help the reader understand the author's message?</li> <li>• Use illustrations and details in a text to describe key ideas.</li> <li>• What text features (headings, table of contents, glossaries, electronic menus, icons) did the author include to help the reader?</li> <li>• How did search tools (key words, side bars, hyperlinks) help the reader?</li> <li>• How do the [pictures, etc.] help convey the mood of the story?</li> </ul>	<p><b>8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Not applicable in Literature—Information Texts only</b></li> <li>• Identify the reasons an author gives to support his key point(s).</li> <li>• Explain how author uses reasons and evidence to support the main idea of _____.</li> <li>• Identify which reasons/evidence support which point(s).</li> <li>• What is the author's point of view on the topic? What in the text makes you say that?</li> <li>• Describe logical connections between specific sentences and paragraphs.</li> <li>• Explain cause and effect relationships in the story/text.</li> <li>• What was the tone of the story/text?</li> </ul>	<p><b>9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare (characters, titles from the same genre, theme, topic, versions of the same story, etc.).</li> <li>• Identify similarities and differences between two texts on the same topic.</li> <li>• Read several texts on the same topic. Write a speech using information from each of source.</li> <li>• Compare the text to: a movie, webpage, video game, piece of art or music, or other media.</li> <li>• How does this selection connect to the theme of _____?</li> <li>• How does this selection connect to (other text we have read, content area, etc.)</li> <li>• How is _____ in paragraphs 1 and 2 like that same idea in paragraphs 3 through 6?</li> <li>• How is _____ shown in paragraphs 7-11?</li> <li>• What mood does the author create?</li> </ul>
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