

The CMT4 Reading Comprehension Toolkit

Tool: Literature Response and Discussion Focus Questions

Text: Fiction

Use: During, After Reading

CMT Strands: All

Description:

Literature response and discussion focus questions can be used in a variety of ways:

- Provide students with a prompt to respond to in writing in preparation for literature discussions.
- Assess students' comprehension by providing students with a focus question to respond to in writing.
- After students discuss their response in literature discussion groups, ask them to respond to the question "How has your thinking changed or evolved?"
- Provide students with focus questions to discuss in literature discussion groups and then write individual responses.
- Provide students with focus questions that correspond with Comparison Matrix categories.

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Focus Questions

1. What important lesson does a character learn in your story? Use examples from the story to support your thinking. (A1)
2. What could be another title for the story? Explain using evidence from the story. (A1)
3. Which words best describe a character in the story? Give details from the story to explain your thinking. (A2)
4. How does a character change in the story? Use details from the story to explain your thinking. (A3)
5. Discuss or summarize the problem or conflict in the story. (A3)
6. How has the problem or conflict changed? What caused the change? Explain your thinking with details from the story. (B3)
7. Infer what type of person the character is. Use information from the story to support your answer. (C1)
8. Explain or discuss how this story is alike or different than your own personal experience. (C1)
9. What does this story say about people in general? In what ways does it remind you of people you know about? Support your answer with evidence from the story. (C1)
10. Which part of the story do you think was most important? Use information from your own life and the story to explain why you chose that part. (C2)
11. Do you think this story could have really happened? Use details from the story to explain your thinking. (C2)
12. Using information from the story, write an imaginary journal page. Include the characters beliefs or opinions about something in the story. (D2/D3)
13. Describe how a character changed in the story and an important event that caused that change. (D2)

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14. How did the character's beliefs guide his/her actions in the story? Use evidence from the story to support your thinking. (D3)
15. Choose a character in the story. What human characteristic seems to be highly valued by that character? Use information from the story to support your thinking. (D3)
16. How would the main character finish this sentence, "It is my opinion that.....". Use information from the story to support your answer. (D3)