

When writing about fiction...

Try to address at least one question from each category below. Most of the time, you will address several without even realizing!

Personal Connections

A.K.A. "I feel" questions... How do I relate to what I read?

- How does the story make me feel?
- Have I ever experienced something similar as a character in this story?
- Does this book remind me of another book I have read?
- Do any of the characters remind me of someone I know in my life?
- How are the characters, setting, and problems like those in other stories I have read?
- How are the characters, setting, and problems connected to my life?
- Was I reminded of anything in my own life when reading the story?
- What does the story make me wonder or think about?
- Is there anything that caught me off-guard?

Setting

- Where and when does the story I am reading take place?
- Where else could the story take place?
- Could the setting be a real place that exists in our time?
- Is the place important to the story? Why or why not?
- What words did the author use to describe the place?
- What can I see, feel, hear, or smell as you read?
- How important is the time or place to the story?
- How much time passes in the story?
- In another time or place, how would the story change?
- How did the author control the passing of time?
- How is the setting like another place I know?
- Does the season or the time affect the characters or the plot of the story?

<p>Characters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any powerful characters in the story? What makes them that way? • Who is the most interesting character, and why? • Who is the most important character, and why? • Which character is the fairest, and why? • Which character was the most brave? Explain. • Which character taught you the most? • Who else could be in the story? • What choices did a character face? Did the character make strong choices or poor choices, in my opinion? • How does the author/illustrator reveal the character? (Look at what the character does, thinks, or says; or what others say about the character.) • How does one of the characters change? • How is character change important to the story? • Who is the character that plays a small role in this story? Why is that character necessary in this story? • How did characters feel about one another? • Are the characters believable? Why or why not? 	<p>Plot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did the author begin the story to get my attention? • What is the story problem? How do I think it will be solved? • What challenges do the characters face, and how do they deal with them? • What choices did the characters have? • How does a character's actions affect other characters in the story? • What was the most important part of the story? • What is the high point (or climax) of the story? • What are the important events of the story? Choose at least three to explain. • Is the book written in an interesting type of way, such as a letter or diary? Does the author use flashbacks (looking back to bring you back to a situation earlier in time)? • While I am still reading the story, what do I predict will happen next? • How does the author help me feel that I am really there in the story? • Do I have any unanswered questions about the story?
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<p>Theme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the author’s message? What do I think the author really wanted me to learn by reading the story? • What is this story really about? • Was the title appropriate for the story? Why or why not? • How did the story hold special meaning to me? 	<p>Perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who tells the story? Is this the best character to tell the story? Why or why not? • What kind of point of view does the narrator have? Is it written in first or third person? • How would this story be different if it were told through another character’s eyes?
<p>Words</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are a few interesting words, phrases, or sentences? Was any of the language used particularly vivid? • Are there words that were used to create a feeling or picture in my mind? • Where did the author describe something really well? • What were some of the strongest (Million Dollar) words the author used? • How did the author begin/end the story? 	<p>Genre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the genre of this story? How do I know? • How is this book like other books I have read in this genre?

Remember...

- Ask questions, ask questions, and ask some more questions!
- Remember that a top-notch journal entry is 1-2 pages long.
- Answer questions with support from the story so I really understand what you are writing.

<p>When writing about non-fiction...</p> <p>Try to address at least one question from each category below. Most of the time, you will address several without even realizing!</p> <p>Personal Connections A.K.A. "I feel" questions... How do I relate to what I read?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did I already know about the topic before I read the story? • How does this book remind me of others I have read? • What have I experienced in my life that reminds me about this topic? • What is my interest in this topic? • How does the information in this text fit in with what I already know? 	<p>Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is this topic important for someone to know? • What are some of the most important words relating to the topic, and what do they mean? • What are some of the most important ideas related to this topic? • Were there any parts of the book that I did not understand? What confused me? What questions do I still have? • What did I really learn about this topic by reading this book? • What does the text make me want to learn more about?
<p>Accuracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the information up-to-date? • Is there a lot of evidence provided to support what the author says? 	<p>Style</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the author made it easy for me to find information in this book? • How has the author made the topic interesting for me to learn about?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the illustrations or photos interesting? Explain. • Is important information included? Is there something important that I felt was missing from the text? • Does the author show the differences between facts and opinions well?
	<p>Features of the text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the title tell readers about this text? • How do headings help me find information in this text? • What information is provided through illustrations (such as drawings, photos, maps, charts, and diagrams)? • Does the text have reference aides such as table of contents, index, bibliography, and glossary? How did they help me out? • Do labels, legends, and captions explain the illustrations?

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