

Reading Question Stems

Writers' purpose and viewpoint:	
Question Stem:	Example Question:
What is this text trying to tell you...?	What is this text trying to tell you about war?
How are you supposed to feel about...?	How are you supposed to feel about the death of Yoda?
How do you know the author likes/dislikes...?	How do you know that the author likes Chelsea?
Why did the author write this...?	Why did the author write this from Michael's point of view?
Who is this book for?	Is this book for children, adults or teenagers?
How are the purposes of the ... and the ... different?	How is the purpose of the letter and the story different?
Where would you expect to see ... text?	Where would you expect to see this fact file text?
Why were ... included?	Why were quotes from scientists included?
Which text is most/more effective?	Which text on whales is most effective in persuading the reader?
Which text is...?	Which text is the writer's own opinion?

Writer's use of language:	
Question Stem:	Example Question:
Explain why the word ... is used.	Explain why the word 'galloped' is used.
Why does the writer compare ... to...?	Why does the writer compare the rain with horses' hooves?
What does ... tell you about...?	What does 'the thunderous cacophony' tell you about the lion's roar?
Why did the author use...?	Why did the author use this simile?
How does ... help you to understand?	How does the comparison with a skyscraper help you to understand his height?
Why are ... used?	Why are words like 'swept and squished' used?
How do the words create a feeling of...?	How do the words like creaked and cracked create a feeling of spookiness?
What do phrases like ... tell you?	What do phrases like 'it is probably' and 'some might say' tell you?
Why did the author choose...?	Why did the author choose 'creeping and tip-toeing'?

Literal retrieval - recalling and retrieving simple information:	
Question Stem:	Example Question:
What does ... mean?	What does 'smartly' mean?
Can ... have more than one meaning?	Can 'light' have more than one meaning?
What happened at...?	What happened at the beginning?
What did the ... do?	What did the bear do?
Which word tells you...?	Which word tells you that she is a girl?
Where did ... go?	Where did the boy go?
Describe...	Describe the giant's house.
Where are...?	Where are the horses now?
Why do...	Why do they like chocolate?

Inferring and interpreting information, events or ideas:

Question Stem:	Example Question:
How did...?	How did Jack know that the giant was coming?
What words tell us...?	What words tell us that Jack was unhappy?
What does the word ... imply?	What does the word 'stomped' imply?
Why did...?	Why did Jack take the golden goose?
What ideas are we given about...?	What ideas are we given about Jack's mother?
What does ... think?	What does the giant's wife think?
How did ... react or feel?	How did Jack react to/feel about being given the magic beans?
How was ... different after...?	How was Jack's life different after he had the harp and the goose?
Why is ... important?	Why is the fact that Jack cut down the beanstalk important?

Social, cultural, historical contexts and literary traditions:

Question Stem:	Example Question:
How do you know this is a...?	How do you know this is a fairy tale?
How does this compare with...?	How does this compare with other Michael Morpurgo books?
How is ... like similar characters from other books?	How is Harry like other school boys in other books?
How do you know this is set in...?	How do you know this is set in World War 2?
What does ... tell you about...?	What does the word Simba tell you about the setting?
Which features tell you this is...?	Which features tell you this is a fantasy story?
Tell me how this is the same as or different to...	Tell me how this is different to War Horse.
What do the characters' reactions tell you about...?	What do the characters' reactions tell you about the time that this was set in?
How does ... affect the characters?	How does the war affect the characters?