Prompts for Text Dependent Questions

(Source, in part: *Connecting Reading & Writing Through Authors Craft,* The Reading Teacher, Rickards & Hawes, Dec, 2006)

GENERAL QUESTION PROMPTS

- How do you know?
- Explain your thinking.
- What is the evidence?
- What is the author's purpose? How do you know?
- What is the author's point of view? How do you know?
- The phrase ___ means ___.
- I think the author means ___ when he/she says ___.
- ___ is an example of ___.

FICTION – CHARACTER ANALYSIS

- What do you know about (character)? What words does the author use to show you?
- What are (character's) strengths? Weaknesses? What words and phrases does the author use for each?
- How does the main character treat other characters? What evidence does the author include?
- How does the main character change throughout the story? What evidence does the author include?
- How does the author show each character's feelings?

GENERAL QUESTION PROMPTS

- What does the author want us to know about ___?
- What is the author's message to his/her readers?
- What ideas in the text support/validate ___?
- What do you learn from the illustrations?
- What do we know from the title and cover?
- What context clues tell you what (word) means?
- What do you notice about the author's use of punctuation?
- What does ___ mean? How do you know?

FICTION ELEMENTS AND STRUCTURES

- How does the author help you learn about the setting (time, place, season)? What do you learn from the text? From the illustrations?
- How does the character react to the setting? How do you know?
- How does the setting change through the story? How do you know?
- How does the dialogue help you understand the interaction between characters?

NONFICTION TEXT FEATURES

- What new information did you learn from the captions?
- Why did the author use (specific text feature) on this page?
- How does the author use ___ (table of contents, index, glossary, labeled diagram, heading, bold/underlined/ italicized words) to help you gain information?
- What text structure(s) does this author use (question/ answer, problem/solution, description, cause/effect, sequence, compare/contrast)? Why was this a good choice?

FICTION ELEMENTS AND STRUCTURES

- An author usually does some research to help him/her write the text. What evidence of research do you find in this text?
- Can you tell if the story describes a particular culture? How do you know? Would the story be different if set in a different culture/setting?
- How does the sequence of events develop the story?
- Describe the major events of ___, in order.

NONFICTION

- What did you learn after reading this ___ (sentence, paragraph, passage, page)?
- What is the most important point in this ___ (paragraph, passage, page, piece)? How do you know?
- What supporting details does the author include to help you learn about ___?
- What does the author think about ___?

AUTHOR'S WORD CHOICE

- What words or phrases grab your attention?
- What words or phrases tug at your heart?
- What beautiful language does the author use?
- What words (color, size, shape, material, proper names) help the author be specific?
- What strong verbs do you notice? How do they help you visualize the author's meaning?
- How do the author's words help develop sensory images?

AUTHOR'S WORD CHOICE

- How does the author use transition words (such as *first, last, suddenly, later)* to help you transition from sentence to sentence, paragraph to paragraph, and section to section?
- What comparisons (simile, metaphor, personification) do you notice in the text? How do they help you understand the text?
- What onomatopoeia, interjections, and alliteration does the author use? How does it support you as a reader?