

Creating Socratic Questions: Using the GATE Icons

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Survey

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Socratic Seminar



- ✓ Fishbowl discussion (not debate)
- ✓ Aims to get at deeper understanding through questioning
- ✓ Critical analysis of a topic (e.g. *Of Mice and Men*)

GATE Icons:

Gifted and Talented Education

✓ Depth

- ✓ Language of the Discipline
- ✓ Details
- ✓ Rules
- ✓ Patterns
- ✓ Trends
- ✓ Ethics
- ✓ Unanswered Questions
- ✓ Big Idea

✓ Complexity

- ✓ Over time
- ✓ Across Disciplines
- ✓ Multiple Perspectives

Depth: Language of the Discipline



- ✓ A discipline is a branch of knowledge
- ✓ Each discipline has its own set of terminology

Depth: Language of the Discipline



- ✓ Group 1: Chemistry/Earth Science
- ✓ Group 2: Math
- ✓ Group 3: History
- ✓ Group 4: Foreign Language
- ✓ Group 5: Physical Education
- ✓ Together: English

Socratic Questions with Language of the Discipline

- ✓ Create a question that incorporates “Language of the Discipline”
 - ✓ Example: Using the Language of the Discipline of World Studies, what type of government best relates to George and Lennie’s relationship?
- ✓ Or create a question that doesn’t necessarily use the phrase “Language of the Discipline” but a derivative from it
 - ✓ Example: What would psychologists say about Curley’s wife’s behavior?

Depth: Details



Details

- ✓ This icon involves elaboration of an idea or event so that you can both recall the specificities and analyze their meaning.

Socratic Questions with Details

- ✓ Create a question that incorporates “Details”
 - ✓ In Curley’s wife’s final scene, what were the Details of her appearance and what was the significance?
- ✓ Create a question that doesn’t necessarily use the word “Details” but a derivative from it
 - ✓ How did Steinbeck describe the Salinas Valley? Why did he choose to describe it that way?

Depth: Rules



- ✓ Define the organizational elements of the text. This process requires the identification and description of factors, either human-made or natural, which affect the information at hand.

Socratic Questions with Rules

- ✓ Create a question that incorporates “Rules”
 - ✓ What Rules was Lennie supposed to follow if there ever was an emergency?
- ✓ Create a questions that doesn’t necessarily use the word “Rules” but a derivative from it
 - ✓ What is acceptable behavior for women at the bunkhouse?

Depth: Patterns



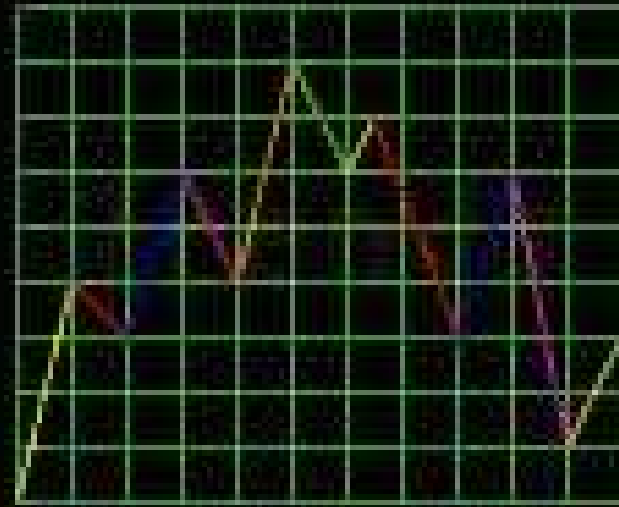
Patterns

- ✓ Recurring elements or repeated factors of an event or idea. It also focuses on the order of events which occur to predict what comes next.
- ✓ Example: 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, ____

Socratic Questions with Patterns

- ✓ Create a question that incorporates “Patterns”
 - ✓ Steinbeck follows that Pattern that at the beginning of every chapter he gives description about the setting first. Why?
- ✓ Create a questions that doesn’t necessarily use the word “Pattern” but a derivative from it
 - ✓ Based on what happened in Weed, what is likely to happen between Lennie and Curley’s wife?

Depth: Trends

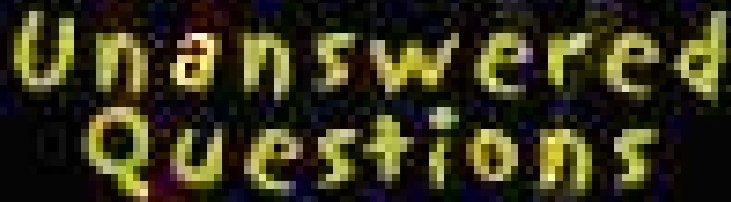


- ✓ Identify changes over time. Note factors or events – social, political, economic, geographic – that cause effects to occur or happen
- ✓ Whereas patterns were predictable, Trends can suddenly change
- ✓ Example: Slap-bracelets to Livestrong Bracelets

Socratic Questions with Trends

- ✓ Create a question that incorporates “Trends”
 - ✓ What Trends with animals exist in *Of Mice and Men*?
- ✓ Create a questions that doesn't necessarily use the word “Trends” but a derivative from it
 - ✓ Although George and Lennie seemed to be moving from town to town because of Lennie, what factors interrupted that cycle?

Depth: Unanswered Questions



Unanswered
Questions

- ✓ What ideas are unclear? What information is unclear? What don't we know? What areas have not been explained or proved yet? Do any conclusions need further evidence or support? These are questions which arise when using this icon in discussion.

Socratic Questions with Unanswered Questions

- ✓ Create a question that incorporates “Unanswered Questions”
 - ✓ Steinbeck leaves the title *Of Mice and Men* an unanswered question. What does it mean?
- ✓ Create a questions that doesn't necessarily use the phrase “Unanswered Questions” but a derivative from it
 - ✓ It's still unclear as to why Curley is so angry. What is his problem?

Depth: Ethics



Ethics

- ✓ Identify and analyze the possible rights and wrongs of a given idea or event.
- ✓ Determine the elements that reflect bias, prejudice and discrimination.

Socratic Questions with Ethics

- ✓ Create a question that incorporates “Ethics”
 - ✓ Was it ethical for Slim to kill the four puppies?
- ✓ Create a questions that doesn’t necessarily use the word “Ethics” but a derivative from it
 - ✓ Is it wrong of Crooks to not let anyone into his room?

Depth: Big Idea



- ✓ The big idea is in other words a generalization, principle, or theory about the text.
- ✓ Make a conclusion from evidence that explain:
a collection of facts or ideas

Socratic Questions with Big Idea

- ✓ Create a question that incorporates “Big Idea”
 - ✓ What is the Big Idea behind Carlson shooting Candy’s dog?
- ✓ Create a questions that doesn’t necessarily use the phrase “Big Idea” but a derivative from it
 - ✓ What’s is Steinbeck’s point when all the outcasts are put into the same room?

Complexity: Over Time

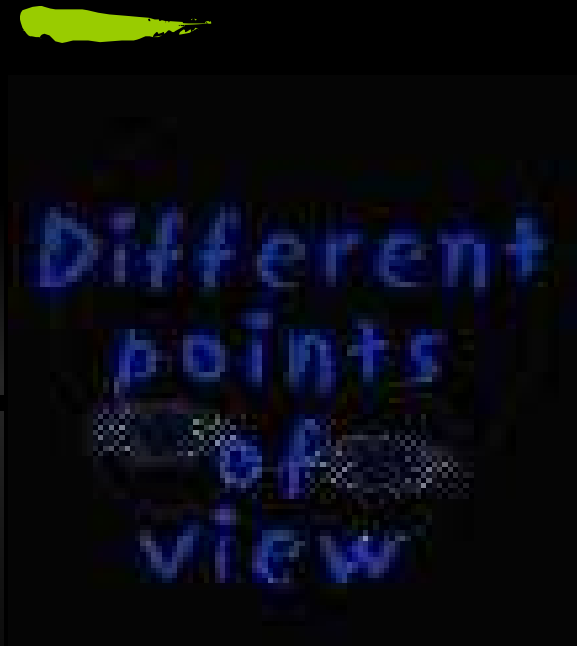


- ✓ Time changes everything.
- ✓ Identify and describe the effects that time has on the text.
- ✓ How and why do things change or remain the same?

Socratic Question with Over Time

- ✓ Create a question that incorporates “Over Time”
 - ✓ How does George’s character change Over Time?
- ✓ Create a questions that doesn’t necessarily use the phrase “Over Time” but a derivative from it
 - ✓ Does Lennie progress from the beginning of the text to the end?

Complexity: Multiple Perspectives



- ✓ Look at ideas and events from different perspectives, since not everybody looks at things the same way.
- ✓ Look through another's eyes is the use of: Think like a historian, anthropologist, economist, archeologist, etc.

Socratic Questions with Multiple Perspectives

- ✓ Create a question that incorporates “Multiple Perspectives”
 - ✓ Explain George’s options at the end from Multiple Perspectives.
- ✓ Create a questions that doesn’t necessarily use the phrase “Multiple Perspectives” but a derivative from it
 - ✓ How might a utilitarian ethicist’s response differ from an ethical relativist’s response regarding George’s final decision?

For Homework:

Create 10 Socratic Questions for our *Of Mice and Men* seminar using the GATE icons, one question per icon.

Depth

Language of the Discipline

Details

Rules

Patterns

Trends

Ethics

Unanswered Questions

Complexity

Over time

Big Idea

Multiple

Perspectives