

## Third Grade Reading Literature Question Stems

### Key Ideas & Details

Standard	Question Stem
<p>RL.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why did the author write this? What evidence supports your idea?</li> <li>• What is the best evidence to show _____?</li> <li>• Who are the characters this book? What do we know about them?</li> <li>• When did (event) happen? Where is that in the book?</li> <li>• Why did (event) happen? How do you know?</li> <li>• What does (character) think about (event)? How do you know?</li> <li>• What was the big problem or event in this story? How did they solve the problem?</li> <li>• How did (character) solve the problem?</li> <li>• What do you think (character) will do differently next time?</li> <li>• Explain why (character or object) is important to the story?</li> </ul>
<p>RL.3.2 Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What happened at the beginning, middle, and end of the story?</li> <li>• What is a summary of this story?</li> <li>• What is the lesson you should learn from this story?</li> <li>• What is this story trying to teach?</li> <li>• What is the moral of this story?</li> <li>• What does _____ represent in the story?</li> </ul>
<p>RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does (character) feel at this part of the story? How do you know?</li> <li>• How does (character) actions change what happens in the story? How would the story be different without them?</li> <li>• What problem does (character) have in the story? How does he/she solve the problem?</li> <li>• How is (character) different at the end of the story then at the beginning?</li> <li>• How does (character) react when _____? Why do they act this way?</li> <li>• How does (character) change throughout the story?</li> <li>• What are (character) personality traits? How does his/her personality affect what happens in the story?</li> </ul>

### Craft & Structure

Standard	Question Stem
<p>RL.3.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does this word mean? How do you know?</li> <li>• What words in the text tell how (character) feels?</li> </ul>

are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does (phrase) mean? Does it mean exactly what it says (e.g. hit the road) or does it mean something else (e.g. get going)?</li> <li>• Can you think of another word to use instead of _____?</li> <li>• What is the tone of this writing? How do you know?</li> <li>• Why did the author choose (rhyming words, alliteration, repeated lines)? How does that make the reading different?</li> <li>• Why did the author choose this word?</li> </ul>
RL.3.5 Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems when writing or speaking about a text, using terms such as chapter, scene, and stanza; describe how each successive part builds on earlier sections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are the parts of the story connected? How does this section/chapter help the reader understand the setting?</li> <li>• How does this scene build suspense?</li> <li>• How would you retell this story, including important parts from the beginning, middle, and end?</li> <li>• <i>In poetry</i> what stanza is the most interesting to you? Why?</li> <li>• Why did the author organize the story like this? How would it be different if the order were changed?</li> </ul>
RL.3.6 Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is telling this story? How do you know?</li> <li>• Are the narrator and the author the same person? How do you know?</li> <li>• Whose point of view is this written from?</li> <li>• What does (character/narrator) think of (event/action)? What do you think? What would you have done differently?</li> </ul>

### Integration of Ideas & Knowledge

Standard	Question Stem
RL.3.7 Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does this illustration show?</li> <li>• How do the pictures make you feel?</li> <li>• The story says (insert quote). Where do you see that happening in the illustrations?</li> <li>• How are the illustrations and the words about the setting the same? How are they different?</li> <li>• What illustrations help you know the character's feelings?</li> <li>• Did the illustrations give away anything in the story? What did the illustrations help you figure out?</li> </ul>
RL.3.8 Not applicable for literature	
RL.3.9 Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (e.g., in books from a series)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does (version 1) differ from (version 2) of this story? How are the versions the same?</li> <li>• How did the theme/setting/plot of the different stories stay the same? What is different?</li> </ul>

## Third Grade Reading Information Question Stems

### Key Ideas & Details

Standard	Question Stem
<p>RI.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be the teacher! What questions would a teacher ask about this book?</li> <li>• What evidence can you find to show _____?</li> <li>• Who / What / Where / When / Why questions such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Who (action e.g. first landed on the moon)? Where does it tell you that in the book?</li> <li>○ Where (do clown fish live)? Where does it tell you that in the book?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How questions such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How do you know whales are mammals?</li> <li>○ How is a lizard like an alligator?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What evidence in the text proves _____?</li> </ul>
<p>RI.3.2 Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the main idea of the entire passage? What details tell more about that idea?</li> <li>• What is the main idea of just this paragraph? What details support the main idea?</li> <li>• Why is _____ a good title for this article? How do the details support this being a good title?</li> <li>• If you were going to make a new title, what would it be? What details gave you the idea for that title?</li> <li>• What do you think the author wants the readers to know?</li> </ul>
<p>RI.3.3 Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the most important events/ideas/steps to remember? Why are those the most important?</li> <li>• What caused (event)?</li> <li>• What effect did (event) have?</li> <li>• What is the effect of _____?</li> <li>• How did the (person/animal/item) change?</li> <li>• How did (experiences) lead to (achievement)?</li> <li>• What happens right before _____?</li> <li>• What would happen if you left out this step?</li> </ul>

### Craft & Structure

Standard	Question Stem
<p>RI.3.4 Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a <i>grade 3 topic or subject area</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do the words and images show (vocabulary word)?</li> <li>• What does the word _____ mean? How did the other words help you figure out the meaning?</li> <li>• Are there any words that confuse you?</li> <li>• What helps you understand the meaning of _____?</li> <li>• What is a synonym for the word _____? How do you know?</li> <li>• What does _____ mean as it is used here? What other meanings are there for the same word?</li> </ul>

<p>RI.3.5 Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What information do you learn in the captions of this image?</li> <li>• Why did the author decide to make _____ a bold word?</li> <li>• How do the images/diagrams help you understand the words?</li> <li>• Why does the author put a heading on the sections? How does it help you?</li> <li>• If you leave out this sentence/section how does it change the text?</li> <li>• What does _____ mean? Can you use the glossary to find out?</li> <li>• What text features (charts, diagrams, illustrations, bold words) help you understand the words?</li> <li>• How would you search more information about _____ in this menu?</li> <li>• What is a different heading the author could have used for this section?</li> </ul>
<p>RI.3.6 Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why did the author write this?</li> <li>• What does the author want you to learn/think/do?</li> <li>• How do you know the author's point of view?</li> <li>• The author describes _____ as _____. What is another way to describe the same thing?</li> <li>• Do you agree with the author? Why or why not?</li> <li>• How could the author convince you that _____?</li> </ul>

### Integration of Ideas & Knowledge

Standard	Question Stem
<p>RI.3.7 Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does this illustration/photo show?</li> <li>• What does the map try to show or explain?</li> <li>• The text says (insert quote). Where do you see that happening in the illustrations?</li> <li>• What does this diagram show? Can you explain how this works?</li> <li>• What information do we get from this photograph?</li> <li>• How does the picture/photo help you understand the words?</li> <li>• What picture/diagram is missing? What would you like the text to include?</li> </ul>
<p>RI.3.8 Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in a text (e.g., comparison, cause/effect, first/second/third in a sequence).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are these two paragraphs/sections connected? (in time order, cause and effect, compare and contrast)</li> <li>• The author says _____. What evidence/reasons does the author give to support this idea?</li> <li>• What is the reason for (action)?</li> <li>• What would happen if we put the paragraphs out of order? Would it change the meaning? Why or why not?</li> <li>• Which words let you know what comes next?</li> </ul>
<p>RI.3.9 Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is (text 1) like (text 2)? How are they different?</li> <li>• How is (picture/diagram) like (picture/diagram)? How are they different?</li> </ul>

two texts on the same topic.

- What is the difference between the first person text and the article without a first person point of view?
- How are the important points in (text 1) the same as the important points in (text 2)? How are they different?