

Text-Dependent Questions



1

Key understanding of whole text: Identify the key understandings and insights you want students to learn from the text.

Example What is the gist of the passage?

Example What is the main claim of the text? What evidence supports that claim?

2

Build understanding of the meaning: Start with easier questions about what, where, why, and how, to help build understanding of the meaning of the passage. Key in on important details.

Example What are potential hazards of bats according to this article?

Example What are potential benefits of bats according to this passage?

3

Vocabulary and text structure: Craft questions about the most powerful academic words, and text structures (such as cause/effect, problem/solution, compare/contrast, sequence, etc.).

Example Why did the author use words such as "blood-slurping" and "dive-bombed"?

Example How does the author transition between the two viewpoints?

4

Author's purpose and point of view: Ask questions to draw the reader's attention to genre, author's purpose, point of view, and multiple perspectives.

Example Who is the intended audience for this article? How do you know?

Example There are two distinct view points represented in this article. Which view point do you think the author believes? Support your answer with evidence.

5

Inference questions: Challenge students to examine inferences on ideas or key details/arguments in the text.

Example How would this article be different if Oliva lived in Arizona instead of Panama?

Example How would this article be different if the author could not cite the scientific advances that had already been made about the study of bats?

6

Opinion and intertextual questions: Have students assert their opinions or make connections to other texts, and support their claims with evidence from the text.

Example Identify examples of appeals to ethos, pathos, and logos.

Example Which argument is more compelling: vampire bats are a menace and should be exterminated, or vampire bats have value to humans and should be preserved? Defend your answer.