Probing Questions to Ask During Reading Conferences

**Characters**

* Who are the main characters in the story? Do you like or dislike them? Why?
* Choose one character. Why is this character important to the story?
* Describe the actions of a character. What can you infer about the character from these actions?
* Do any of the characters change? How? What even(s) impacted this change?
* Describe any similarities between this character and (yourself, other characters you have red about.)
* How could an experience in the story help the character in the future?

**Plot**

* Summarize the main events that have happened (thus far) in your story?
* Were you able to predict what was going to happen next? Why?
* Predict the next event.
* Can you think of another way your story might have happened?

**Setting**

* Where does the story take place? Describe the…(physical elements and the human characteristics) of the setting.
* Describe what the place was like?
* Describe the closest place that you know of that is like this place.
* Did the story take place a long time ago/in the future/ now? How do you know?

**Conflict**

* Who has a problem? What is the problem?
* Is there one problem or more? Describe…
* Predict how the problem is going to be resolved. What evidence in the text helps you to inform this prediction?
* What type of conflict is in your book? (man vs. man, man vs. himself, man vs. nature)

**Point of View**

* Who is telling the story? How can you tell?
* Which point of view is used?
* Based upon the narrator that tells the story what do you know about how he/she feels? Find evidence in the text to support your opinion.
* Do you agree with the point of view? Why or why not?

**Connections/Mood**

* How did you feel while reading this book? Why did you feel this way?
* What words did the author use to create the mood of the story?
* Does this story remind you of something that happened in your life…another story…movie…etc?

**Author**

* Based upon this book, what do you know about the author? What evidence fro the text helped you to form your opinion?
* What is the author’s message?
* What did the author have to learn/research (or know about) in order to write this book?

**Style**

* What special words does the author use to help you hear/see the story?
* Tell me about any pictures (images) the author has left in your mind.
* Describe the tone/mood of the story. What in the text supports your opinion?
* What do you like about the way the author has written the story?

**Theme**

* Explain the author’s purpose in writing this text. (Why do you think the author wrote this book, article?)
* Explain the author’s message/theme in this text. What evidence from the text supports your opinion/claim?
* What do you think the character(s) learned? What evidence fro the text supports your opinion/claim?

**Illustration**

* What did the illustration add to the text?
* Do you like the illustrations? Why or why not?
* What do you think the illustrator needed to know in order to illustrate this book?

**Text Features**

* Which text features did you use to preview the selection before reading?
* How was your text organized?
* Which text feature(s) helped you to better understand the text/book? Find the features and explain in detail how this particular feature assisted your understanding.

**Expository Understanding/Analysis**

* What did you enjoy learning about the most? Why?
* What was the main/central idea? What were the key details related to this idea?
* Would you like to read more books about this topic? Why or why not?
* What pictures or illustrations did you find the most interesting? Why?
* What kind of research do you think the author had to do to write the text?
* What questions would you ask the author?
* What was the author’s purpose in writing this book? Cite evidence in the text to support your opinion/claim.
* What other purpose might an author have for writing about this topic?
* Do you agree with the author’s stance? Why or why not?
* Was there evidence of bias or propaganda in the text? Describe.