

## When writing about fiction...

Try to address at least one question from each category below. Most of the time, you will address several without even realizing!

### Personal Connections

A.K.A. "I feel" questions... How do I relate to what I read?

- How does the story make me feel?
- Have I ever experienced something similar as a character in this story?
- Does this book remind me of another book I have read?
- Do any of the characters remind me of someone I know in my life?
- How are the characters, setting, and problems like those in other stories I have read?
- How are the characters, setting, and problems connected to my life?
- Was I reminded of anything in my own life when reading the story?
- What does the story make me wonder or think about?
- Is there anything that caught me off-guard?

### Setting

- Where and when does the story I am reading take place?
- Where else could the story take place?
- Could the setting be a real place that exists in our time?
- Is the place important to the story? Why or why not?
- What words did the author use to describe the place?
- What can I see, feel, hear, or smell as you read?
- How important is the time or place to the story?
- How much time passes in the story?
- In another time or place, how would the story change?
- How did the author control the passing of time?
- How is the setting like another place I know?
- Does the season or the time affect the characters or the plot of the story?

<p><b>Characters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there any powerful characters in the story? What makes them that way?</li> <li>• Who is the most interesting character, and why?</li> <li>• Who is the most important character, and why?</li> <li>• Which character is the fairest, and why?</li> <li>• Which character was the most brave? Explain.</li> <li>• Which character taught you the most?</li> <li>• Who else could be in the story?</li> <li>• What choices did a character face? Did the character make strong choices or poor choices, in my opinion?</li> <li>• How does the author/illustrator reveal the character? (Look at what the character does, thinks, or says; or what others say about the character.)</li> <li>• How does one of the characters change?</li> <li>• How is character change important to the story?</li> <li>• Who is the character that plays a small role in this story? Why is that character necessary in this story?</li> <li>• How did characters feel about one another?</li> <li>• Are the characters believable? Why or why not?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Plot</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How did the author begin the story to get my attention?</li> <li>• What is the story problem? How do I think it will be solved?</li> <li>• What challenges do the characters face, and how do they deal with them?</li> <li>• What choices did the characters have?</li> <li>• How does a character's actions affect other characters in the story?</li> <li>• What was the most important part of the story?</li> <li>• What is the high point (or climax) of the story?</li> <li>• What are the important events of the story? Choose at least three to explain.</li> <li>• Is the book written in an interesting type of way, such as a letter or diary? Does the author use flashbacks (looking back to bring you back to a situation earlier in time)?</li> <li>• While I am still reading the story, what do I predict will happen next?</li> <li>• How does the author help me feel that I am really there in the story?</li> <li>• Do I have any unanswered questions about the story?</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Theme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the author’s message? What do I think the author really wanted me to learn by reading the story?</li> <li>• What is this story really about?</li> <li>• Was the title appropriate for the story? Why or why not?</li> <li>• How did the story hold special meaning to me?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Perspective</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who tells the story? Is this the best character to tell the story? Why or why not?</li> <li>• What kind of point of view does the narrator have? Is it written in first or third person?</li> <li>• How would this story be different if it were told through another character’s eyes?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Words</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are a few interesting words, phrases, or sentences? Was any of the language used particularly vivid?</li> <li>• Are there words that were used to create a feeling or picture in my mind?</li> <li>• Where did the author describe something really well?</li> <li>• What were some of the strongest (Million Dollar) words the author used?</li> <li>• How did the author begin/end the story?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Genre</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the genre of this story? How do I know?</li> <li>• How is this book like other books I have read in this genre?</li> </ul>

**Remember...**

- Ask questions, ask questions, and ask some more questions!
- Remember that a top-notch journal entry is 1-2 pages long.
- Answer questions with support from the story so I really understand what you are writing.

<p><b>When writing about non-fiction...</b></p> <p>Try to address at least one question from each category below. Most of the time, you will address several without even realizing!</p> <p><b>Personal Connections</b> A.K.A. "I feel" questions... How do I relate to what I read?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What did I already know about the topic before I read the story?</li> <li>• How does this book remind me of others I have read?</li> <li>• What have I experienced in my life that reminds me about this topic?</li> <li>• What is my interest in this topic?</li> <li>• How does the information in this text fit in with what I already know?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is this topic important for someone to know?</li> <li>• What are some of the most important words relating to the topic, and what do they mean?</li> <li>• What are some of the most important ideas related to this topic?</li> <li>• Were there any parts of the book that I did not understand? What confused me? What questions do I still have?</li> <li>• What did I really learn about this topic by reading this book?</li> <li>• What does the text make me want to learn more about?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accuracy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the information up-to-date?</li> <li>• Is there a lot of evidence provided to support what the author says?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Style</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How has the author made it easy for me to find information in this book?</li> <li>• How has the author made the topic interesting for me to learn about?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Are the illustrations or photos interesting? Explain.</li> <li>● Is important information included? Is there something important that I felt was missing from the text?</li> <li>● Does the author show the differences between facts and opinions well?</li> </ul>
	<p>Features of the text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What does the title tell readers about this text?</li> <li>● How do headings help me find information in this text?</li> <li>● What information is provided through illustrations (such as drawings, photos, maps, charts, and diagrams)?</li> <li>● Does the text have reference aides such as table of contents, index, bibliography, and glossary? How did they help me out?</li> <li>● Do labels, legends, and captions explain the illustrations?</li> </ul>

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