

Guiding Questions for "Comprehending Conversations"

Levels A-N

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Note: This is a list of question opportunities to use corresponding to the Comprehending Conversation rubric. Questions are provided for comprehension for "within, beyond & about" the text. Questions correspond to the 5 comprehension skill categories from the rubric. This is meant to be a guide, not an exhaustive list of questions. It is recommended that you read through the text, consider the student's current level of comprehension & highlight some of the questions from each of the 5 categories to include in your comprehending conversation assessment with the student.

Student Name: _____ Date: _____ Text: _____ Assessor: _____

Knowledge of Key Ideas/Details

For Fiction Texts:

Who are the character(s) in the story? Who do you think is the most important character...and why?

Where does the story happen? Do the settings change in the story?

Where are the characters at the beginning of the story, where are

the characters at the end of the story?

What is the __ (main character) __ trying to do during the story? What does he/she want to happen?

What happens at the beginning of the story.... The middle.... The end?

When does the story happen?

What is the big problem in the story?

Find the part in the story when ____ happened. Tell me about that part.

What is the story mostly about?

OTHER:

For Non-Fiction Texts:

What is the main topic of this book?

What did you already know about __ (topic) __ before you read this book?

Tell me some new things you learned from this book about __ (topic) __

What does __ (vocabulary word) __ mean? Find the part in the book where the author talks about that.

Find the part in the book describing _____. Tell me what you learned here.

Look at this photograph/diagram/chart, etc.... What did you learn here?

What are the different kinds of _____?

OTHER:

Comprehension of Text Structure

For Fiction Texts:

Is this a fiction or non-fiction story? What genre do you think the story is?

What is the big problem in the story? What caused the problem? What is the turn-around in the story? How does the problem get solved?

Which character mostly solves the problem?

How does the story end?

What happened in the story before _____ happened? What happened after ____ happened? *(get a sense if student understands order of*

events using before/after concepts)

OTHER:

For Non-Fiction Texts:

What do you think the most important things the author wanted the reader to learn about ____ (topic) ____?

The author talked about sub-topics in this book... these are the details about ____ (topic) ____ . What were some of the sub-topics in the book?

How did the author organize the details about ____ (topic) ____ (referring to structure of non-fiction text....)

Look at this sub-heading..... What is the main topic of this section? Now, look at this subheading.... What is the topic of *this* section?

OTHER:

Integrate Knowledge & Ideas

For Fiction Texts:

What did you learn about the characters in the book?

What did this book make you think about while you were reading?

Does anything from this story remind you of something you have experienced? Does a character remind you of someone you know?

Does this book remind you of any other books you have heard or read?

What do you think will happen next? What has happened so far in the story to make you think that?

How do you think ____ (character's name) ____ is feeling?

What caused ____ to happen? (talk about a cause-effect plot element)

What is another way the character's could have solved the problem?

OTHER:

For Non-Fiction Texts:

What else do you know about ____ (non-fiction topic) ____? How did this book add to you learning?

What information did you learn from this ____ (name a non-fiction text feature) ____?

Does this book make you think of other books you have read on this topic?

OTHER:

Synthesize & Infer

For Fiction Texts:

How do you think ____ (character name) ____ is feeling at this point in the story? What clues in the text or illustration tell you that?

Why do you think ____ (character name) ____ is feeling that way? How would *YOU* feel if this happened to you?

Who is the narrator right here? (Who is telling the story?)

Which character in this story is the most like you? How are you the same? How are you different?

What are 3 things to describe what the ____ (main character name) ____ looks like on the outside?

What are 3 words to describe what the ____ (main character name's) ____ personality is like?

What else do you think the ___(main character)___ would like or do for fun? What do you suppose he/she would *not* like? Why?
Why do you think ___(character)___ chose to do ___(character action)___? (*targeting character motives here...*)
How did the character change from the beginning of the story to the end?
What lesson did ___(main character)___ learn?
How are the two characters the same? How are they different?
What do you suppose ___(character name) was thinking when _____? What makes you think that?
Imagine if the ___[main character]__ was in your class. Do you think you would be friends with them? Why?
How much time passes during the whole story? How do you know that?
Why do you think the author wrote this book? What big message did he/she want the reader to learn?

OTHER:

For Non-Fiction Texts:

Look at this diagram (or chart, photograph, etc.) right here.... What is this diagram trying to teach the reader?

OTHER:

Critique/Evaluate

For Fiction Texts:

What is the author's role in the book? What is the illustrator's role?
Have you read other books by this author? (if yes....) What do you notice in books by ___[author's name]___?
Have you seen other books illustrated by this illustrator? (if yes....) What do you notice about his/her artwork?
What specific words did the author choose that gave you information about the setting?
Did you like this book? Tell me why.... What specifically did you like/not like?
Who else do you think might like this book? Why would he/she like it?
What do you think about how the story ended? What might be a different ending?
If there was a 2nd book in a series to follow this book, what do you think it might be about? What would ___(character)___ do next?
Is this a good title for the story? Why? What might be another title for this book?
What did the author mean when he/she wrote ___(point out figurative or noteworthy language)___?
When you first started reading the story, what got you interested right away? (*an illustration, some text, a character, etc.*)
What did the author do to make this story (funny, surprising, sad, etc....) ?

OTHER:

For Non-Fiction Texts:

Show me some of the non-fiction text features you noticed.
What kinds of graphics or pictures did the author choose to put in this text? Why do you think he/she chose a caption here? (or, chose a diagram versus a photograph, etc)
Is this a good title for this book? Why? What might be another title for this book?
How did the sub-headings help you understand the book?
What other questions do you have about ___(the topic)___? If the author wrote another book, what should he/she add?

OTHER: