

## Questions to Support Comprehension of Fiction

### *Personal and Textual Connections*

- ❖ How does the story make you feel?
- ❖ Have you ever had similar experiences?
- ❖ Does the book remind you of another book?
- ❖ Do any of the characters remind you of someone in your life?
- ❖ How is this story like any other story you know?
- ❖ How are the characters, setting, and problems like those in other stories you have read?
- ❖ How are the characters, setting, and problems connected to your life?
- ❖ Were you reminded of anything in your own life?
- ❖ What does this story make you think or wonder about?
- ❖ What surprised you?

### *Setting*

- ❖ Where and when does the story 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? How?
- ❖ What words did the author use to describe the place?
- ❖ What can you hear, see, feel, or smell as you read?
- ❖ How important is the place or time 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 you know?
- ❖ Does the season or the time affect the characters or the plot of the story?

### *Characters*

- ❖ Are there any powerful characters in the story? What makes them that way?
- ❖ Who is the most interesting character? Why?
- ❖ Who is the most important character? Why?
- ❖ What character is the fairest? Why?
- ❖ Who is the bravest character? Why?
- ❖ Which character taught you the most?
- ❖ Who else could be in the story?
- ❖ What choices did a character have?
- ❖ How does the author/illustrator reveal the character? (Look at what the character does, thinks, or says; or what others say *about* the character.)
- ❖ How does one of the characters change? Why?
- ❖ Which characters change and which don't? How is character change important in the story?
- ❖ Who is a character that plays a small role? Why is this character necessary in the story?
- ❖ What did you learn from one character in the story?
- ❖ How did characters feel about one another? Why?
- ❖ Are the characters believable? Why or why not?

## Questions to Support Comprehension of Fiction (continued)

### *Plot*

- ❖ How did the author begin the story to engage the reader?
- ❖ What is the story problem? How do you think it will be solved?
- ❖ What challenges do the characters encounter and how do they deal with them?
- ❖ What choices did the characters have?
- ❖ How does a character's actions affect other people in the story?
- ❖ What was the most important part of the story?
- ❖ How would you describe the story shape? (linear, triangular, circular; for example, home-adventure-home)
- ❖ What is the high point of the story?
- ❖ What are the important events in the story?
- ❖ What is the order of events in the story? (for example, series of sequential events, letter or diary, record, flashback)
- ❖ Could the order of events be changed or could any of the events be left out?
- ❖ Were you able to predict the story ending?
- ❖ How did the story end?
- ❖ If you were the author, would you have ended it in any different way? How?
- ❖ What clues did the author give to allow the reader to predict the ending?
- ❖ What lesson does this story teach about life?
- ❖ What do you think will happen next in the story?
- ❖ What do you think will happen next for the characters after the story ends?
- ❖ Do you think the story really could have happened?
- ❖ How does the author provide information or details to make the story seem realistic?
- ❖ How does the author help you feel that you are really there [in both realistic stories and fantasy]?
- ❖ How was the story resolved?
- ❖ What two or three sentences summarize the whole story?
- ❖ Make a sketch or picture of an event in the book.
- ❖ What are the most important events of the story?
- ❖ Do you have any unanswered questions about the story?

### *Theme*

- ❖ What is the author's message?
- ❖ What is the story really about?
- ❖ Do you think the title is appropriate for the story?
- ❖ What does the story mean to you?
- ❖ Why did the author write this story?
- ❖ What is the author really trying to say?

### *Perspective*

- ❖ Who tells the story? Is this the best person to tell it? Why?
- ❖ Whose point of view is used in the story?
- ❖ What other voices could tell the story?
- ❖ How would the story be different if told through another character's eyes?