**Tents for Talking**

The “tents” are to be placed on the table as you and the students read the text or book. They could also be placed there as an “after reading” discussion starter activity, too! This will extend the reading assignment and help students form their own discussion points about the reading (especially those who struggle to use academic vocabulary or ELL/ESL students)

The questions and sentence stems come directly from previous STAAR tests and /or the grade-level TEKS.

**Ideas:**

Read a page or section of the assignment and then stop to discuss using the Tents for Talking as a guide. Students can take turns reading/asking/responding verbally to the questions. Students are the ones who take turns making up questions, comments, and observations about the reading based on the terms on the Tents for Talking. You can have them use just one or two at a time and then move on and keep reading. You can be creative with how you use them each day ☺

**After Discussing:**

Have students choose 1 term or 4-5 terms (or however many) and provide a written response to the text using those terms. This makes for an easy way to hold students accountable for keeping their discussion on track when they’re working and discussing in small groups. Plus, any time you can make writing part of what students are doing in class, you’re helping them to solidify their learning!