

## \* Middle School ELA Teachers \*

### 10 Questions about Fiction You Can Ask to Increase Engagement

**These 10 questions below will help ensure that you always have something to use with pretty much anything you want your students to read and discuss** (these work best for fiction texts like novels or short stories, but I do have some for other genres as well).

Skim through the list (of course you can ask these in any order) and then **check out the various ways you can use them that I've got below the list for you :-)**

- 1) Could the character mean something different here?
- 2) Who else is going to be impacted by this new development in the plot?
- 3) Imagine this entire section as a single image... Can you sketch that image?
- 4) Read this part of the dialogue aloud in different ways. How does the tone of your voice change what the meaning could be? How do you think the character sounds in this part?
- 5) Based on what you know of the characters, what would happen if \_\_\_\_\_ said \_\_\_\_\_?
- 6) What would it take to make this more believable or relatable for us as readers?
- 7) Have we ever read anything similar to this before? (conflict, genre, theme, time period, etc.)
- 8) Does this way of thinking always work? What will likely happen later in the plot if it's wrong?
- 9) Imagine a song playing as this event is happening (or as this character enters the scene).  
What song? Which lyrics? How would that song emphasize the events in the story?
- 10) Which parts make sense to you, and which parts seem confusing?

#### **Ok, I promised a few ideas on how to actually use these questions:**

##### **Option 1**

Just keep them on a clipboard or on your phone (whatever you always seem to have with you as you're teaching) so you can quickly refer to the questions at any time.

##### **Option 2**

Turn these 10 questions into 10 discussion task cards to use during or after reading something. I've already done this and I'm sharing the task cards below :-)

##### **Option 3**

Small groups: Have students respond to just one of those questions independently (you assign them so you have an equal number of the same question throughout class). Then, students get into groups based on the questions and share responses or create a new group response.

##### **Option 4**

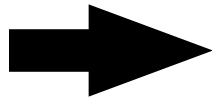
Simply use these as Exit Ticket ideas! Different students can answer different questions, or you can choose one that you want everyone to focus on in order to get a better view of how your students are interacting with the reading as it relates to the one question you chose for them.

Scroll down for the 10 questions  
that I turned into discussion task cards :-)

But first —

I'm ALL about up-leveling student engagement while  
keeping things 100% realistic and doable for teachers, so . . .

If you haven't already, I'd love to invite you to *join me at one of my free trainings* designed to help you **teach Middle School ELA with less stress on your part and more engagement from students!**



Click on the free training below that resonates with you the most, and I'll see you there **with more freebies, too!**

**OPTION A - CLICK HERE**

**Engaging Test Prep Strategies for Middle School ELA**  
*(that don't feel like test prep!)*

**OPTION B - CLICK HERE**

**Centers & Stations in the Middle School ELA Classroom**  
*(easy, realistic, actionable!)*

**OPTION C - CLICK HERE**

**Realistic Ways to Differentiate in the Middle School ELA Classroom**  
*(without going nuts!)*

**Now grab your task cards below!**

<p>Could the character mean something different here?</p>	<p>Who else is going to be impacted by this new development in the plot?</p>
<p>Imagine this entire section as a single image... Can you sketch that image?</p>	<p>Read this part of the dialogue aloud in different ways. How does the tone of your voice change what the meaning could be? How do you think the character sounds in this part?</p>
<p>Based on what you know of the characters, what would happen if _____ said _____?</p>	<p>What would it take to make this more believable or relatable for us as readers?</p>
<p>What else have we read that is similar to this? (conflict, genre, theme, time period, etc.)</p>	<p>Does this way of thinking always work? What will likely happen later in the plot if it's wrong?</p>
<p>Imagine a song playing as this event is happening (or as this character enters the scene). What song? Which lyrics? How would that song emphasize the events in the story?</p>	<p>Which parts make sense to you, and which parts seem confusing?</p>