

Questioning Quick Reference Guide

Factual (What is the author saying?): Questions that only have one answer. It must be supported by the text. This is the lowest form of questioning but is important to understand key plot points. It does not necessarily need to be a simple answer.

Examples:

- *What is the name of Esperanza's sister?*
- *How does Esperanza meet Rachel and Lucy?*

Interpretive (What does the author mean?): Questions that have more than one answer that can be supported with evidence from the text. Interpretive questions keep discussions going and require the reader to refer back to the text.

- Character motivation (why a character does something). Use questions to discover reasons behind a character's statements, actions and/or thoughts.
 - *Example: Why does Esperanza compare herself and her friends to four skinny trees?*
- Interesting use of language. Develops discussions on how an author expresses an idea or creates a description.
 - *Example: Why does the author use vignettes to tell Esperanza's story?*
- Key words to use in interpretive questions: how, where, why, and when.

Evaluative (What do you think of the author's ideas?): Questions that ask the reader to decide if s/he agrees with the writer's ideas or point of view of a character. The answer to an evaluative question depends on a reader's prior knowledge, experience, values, or opinions as well as his or her interpretation of the text.

- Do you think that it is realistic for Esperanza to achieve her dreams?
- How did the chapter Born Bad make you feel?