

Novel Discussion Guide for Teachers

Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions before, during, and after reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a book discussion.

Predictions:

- Based on the title, cover, title page, and first page of text, what do you think will happen in this story?
- What text clues or hints indicate what might happen later in the story?
- Why do you think [character] acts the way they do? What do you anticipate will happen in the story with this character?
- How do you think the story will end? What makes you think that?
- What do you think will happen in the next book in the series?

Connections:

- Which character do you most relate to? Why?
- Which character do you least relate to? Why?
- Do any of the characters remind you of someone else, either in fiction or real life?
- Does the setting remind you of any other books or movies?
- Think about one of the most important parts of the story. What would you have done if you were in that situation?
- Have you ever read or seen anything like this before? How does this story compare to that?

Story elements:

- What's happened in the story so far?
- What is the major conflict in the story?
- When and where does the story take place?
- Would you want to live there? Why or why not?
- What is the importance of the setting?
- How would the story be different if it happened in another place or time?
- Who are the main characters? What are their goals and motivations?
- How are the main characters alike and different?
- Who or what is the antagonist in the story?
- What event or moment serves as a turning point in the story?
- How does the conflict get resolved?

Author's craft:

- Does the author do anything unique in the way they wrote the story?
- Think about a particular moment in the story. Why do you think the author included that?
- How did the author organize the plot (e.g., chronologically, flashbacks, switching between character perspectives)? Why do you think the story was told this way?
- Which point of view is used to tell the story? How would it be different if the story were told from a different point of view?
- What specific words or phrases does the author use to set the tone of the story?
- What do you think the author wants you to take away from this story?

Reflections:

- Did you like the book? What were the best and worst parts for you?
- Was the ending satisfying? Why or why not?
- If you could rewrite the ending, what changes would you make?
- Would you read this book again?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? What would you tell them about it?
- Are there any questions the author left unanswered?
- What about this book is going to stick with you? What will you remember most?
- How did you feel while reading this book?