

Bloom's Question Starters for Higher Order Thinking

Bloom's Question Starter List – This list moves through 6 levels of questions. The first three levels are considered lower order questions; the final three levels are considered higher order. Higher order questions are what we use for Critical Thinking and Creative Problem Solving. I have written what each level of questions are about, given lists of key words that can be used to begin a question for that level, and I have listed Question Starters. You can use this chart to create questions that are specific to your novel.

Level 1: Remember – Recalling Information

- List of key words: Recognize, List, Describe, Retrieve, Name, Find, Match, Recall, Select, Label, Define, Tell
- List of Question Starters:
 - What is...?
 - Who was it that...?
 - Can you name...?
 - Describe what happened after...
 - What happened after...?

Level 2: Understand – Demonstrate an understanding of facts, concepts and ideas

- List of key words: Compare, Contrast, Demonstrate, Describe, Interpret, Explain, Extend, Illustrate, Infer, Outline, Relate, Rephrase, Translate, Summarize, Show, Classify
- List of Question Starters:
 - Can you explain why...?
 - Can you write in your own words?
 - Write a brief outline of...
 - Can you clarify...?
 - Who do you think?
 - What was the main idea?

Level 3: Apply – Solve problems by applying knowledge, facts, techniques and rules in a unique way

- List of key words: Apply, Build, Choose, Construct, Demonstrate, Develop, Draw, Experiment with, Illustrate, Interview, Make use of, Model, Organize, Plan, Select, Solve, Utilize
- List of Question Starters:
 - Do you know of another instance where...?
 - Demonstrate how certain characters are similar or different?
 - Illustrate how the belief systems and values of the characters are presented in the story.
 - What questions would you ask of...?
 - Can you illustrate...?
 - What choice does ... (character) face?

Level 4: Analyze – Breaking information into parts to explore connections and relationships

- List of key words: Analyze, Categorize, Classify, Compare, Contrast, Discover, Divide, Examine, Group, Inspect, Sequence, Simplify, Make Distinctions, Relationships, Function, Assume, Conclusions
- List of Question Starters:
 - Which events could not have happened?
 - If ... happened, what might the ending have been?
 - How is... similar to...?
 - Can you distinguish between...?
 - What was the turning point?
 - What was the problem with...?
 - Why did... changes occur?

Level 5: Evaluate – Justifying or defending a position or course of action

- List of key words: Award, Choose, Defend, Determine, Evaluate, Judge, Justify, Measure, Compare, Mark, Rate, Recommend, Select, Agree, Appraise, Prioritize, Support, Prove, Disprove. Assess, Influence, Value
- List of Question Starters:
 - Judge the value of...
 - Can you defend the character's position about...?
 - Do you think... is a good or bad thing?
 - Do you believe...?
 - What are the consequences...?
 - Why did the character choose...?
 - How can you determine the character's motivation when...?

Level 6: Create – Generating new ideas, products or ways of viewing things

- List of key words: Design, Construct, Produce, Invent, Combine, Compile, Develop, Formulate, Imagine, Modify, Change, Improve, Elaborate, Plan, Propose, Solve
- List of Question Starters:
 - What would happen if...?
 - Can you see a possible solution to...?
 - Do you agree with the actions?...with the outcomes?
 - What is your opinion of...?
 - What do you imagine would have been the outcome if... had made a different choice?
 - Invent a new ending.
 - What would you cite to defend the actions of...?

(Source: Pohl, Learning to Think, Thinking to Learn)