

Questions for Critical Thinking

Dear Parents,

The cognitive domain of Bloom’s Taxonomy emphasizes intellectual outcome. We want our learners to be able to recall important information from what they read. However, we also want them to use more in depth thinking skills such as: making predictions, understanding characters, understanding why things happen, comparing and contrasting ideas, and expressing opinions. We have created this list of questions for you to use at home with your child. The results will be improved attention to detail, increased comprehension, and expanded problem solving skills. Make time to have some reading time with your child. Have your child read out loud to you. Then, ask your child questions from the categories below to encourage them to use the different levels of thinking.

| Levels of Thinking | Sample Questions |
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| Knowledge <i>Exhibit memory of previously-learned material by recalling facts, terms, basic concepts and answers.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Who are the main characters? ▶ Where does the story take place? ▶ What is the problem/solution? ▶ What are some important events in the story? |
| Comprehension <i>Demonstrate understanding of facts and ideas by organizing, translating, interpreting, giving descriptions, and stating main ideas.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How would you compare the main character to other characters? ▶ What is the main idea of the chapter/story? ▶ Can you explain what is happening? ▶ Which statement supports your ideas? |
| Application <i>Solve problems to new situations by applying acquired knowledge, facts, techniques and rules in a different way.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What would you do if you were the main character? ▶ What elements of the book/story would you choose to change? ▶ What question would you ask in an interview with the main character? |
| Analysis <i>Examine and break information into parts by identifying motives or causes. Make inferences and find evidence to support generalizations.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What is the theme of the story? ▶ What inferences/predictions can you make? ▶ Why do you think...? (refer to character’s actions or event) ▶ What evidence can you find to support the character’s actions? |
| Synthesis <i>Compile information together in a different way by combining elements in a new pattern or proposing alternative solutions.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What changes would you make in the story? ▶ What would happen if the character reacted differently to the problem? ▶ Can you create a new ending to the story? ▶ How would you change the plot to lead to a different outcome? |
| Evaluation <i>Present and defend opinions by making judgments about information, validity of ideas or quality of work based on a set of criteria.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What do you think about the outcome of the story? ▶ What do you think of the main character? ▶ How would you rate the book? Explain. ▶ How would you compare the main character to yourself? |