

## Probing Questions which advance thought and reading skills: LKS2

### Questions about sequence, style and structure



- Which idea links the information in this paragraph?
- Why has the author begun a new paragraph here?
- How has the author signposted the new paragraph?
- Can you see a pattern developing in this text?
- Does the author always use conjunctions in the middle of her sentences, or does she find new places to put them?
- How does the author make you want to read on?
- Can you tell what the writer's own point of view is? Which words help you to know this?
- Are different points of view evident here? Can you compare them?
- Have these events been written in chronological sequence? Is there another way they could have been set down?
- What happened after ...? Why is this order of events important?
- Can you find a problem in the text? When does it occur?
- Which part of the story describes the setting? Which words or phrases has the author used?
- There doesn't seem to be much information about the setting in this text. Why do you think this is?
- Which words indicate other ideas in this argument? e.g. however, although, on the other hand.
- Look at the way this poem is organised. Why do you think the poet has chosen to set it out this way?
- Why has the poet begun a new verse here?
- Does the layout of this poem suit the type of poem it is? Why?
- How does the layout and presentation of this advert persuade people to buy the product?
- Which sensational words in this advert are the most effective and why?
- Look closely at the argument in this text. Can you describe how the argument develops? What does each paragraph focus on?
- Has the author been clever at a particular point in this text? Explain how she has done this.

## Questions about character



- What does the writer want you to think about this character?
- What is your own view of this character? Can you explain using the text?
- What was the character thinking at this point in the story? How do you know?
- Find words in the text which support your point of view.
- How are these two characters similar? How are they different?
- Why did the character take that action? Did she have more than one reason to do that?
- How can you tell what the character was feeling from what he said?
- Do his actions show you how he was feeling at the time?
- Did the character change his mind? Exactly where in the text does it let you know this?
- What does this information suggest about the character's thoughts?
- How did the character feel about this at the beginning / end of the text?
- What does the writer want the reader to feel about this character?
- How do this character's actions affect the other characters? What do they do / feel about this?
- In this fairy story, who is the hero or heroine and who is the villain? Which words or phrases show you clearly which is which? Does the writer mainly show this through what the characters do, or through what they say? Are there other ways the book makes it clear?

## Questions about event



- What do you think is the main event in this text?
- Are there several important events?
- Does one thing keep recurring? How many times can you find this event in the text? Why do you think the author did this?
- Did the events happen in time order?
- Look at what happened in ... What does this tell you about ...?

- Describe this event in your own words if you can. What do you think will happen next?
- How do you know that this happened? Which words tell you this?
- Sometimes, writers have clever ways to prepare the reader for the main part of the story. Which things led up to this main event?
- From the information, can you write your own set of instructions for...?
- If ... had happened instead, what might the end result have been?

## Questions about language, tone and vocabulary



- Look at the way the sentences are written. Can you describe how some sentences in the text are different from others?
- What effect does this short sentence have, after the long one before it?
- Look closely at the words and phrases in this poem. How has the writer shown the mood of the poem?
- What is the effect of each of these two words / phrases on the reader? Which word / phrase is more effective in your opinion?
- Which words or phrases tell you who this letter is for?
- If you were the recipient, would you have liked to receive this letter? Explain your answer.
- Can you tell the thoughts and feelings of the writer of this letter, by the language he has used? Are there particular words which let you know?
- Do you think this text is supposed to be funny or serious? Can you explain your answer using words and ideas from the text?
- What does the writer want the reader to feel or think about this situation? Which words or phrases show you this?
- From this section of the information text, what does the writer think about this issue himself? Do you think the writer wants to persuade you too, or to let you make up your own mind?
- Look at these two different adverts / articles. Which one would most persuade you to buy their product / change your mind? Why?
- What do these words / phrases make the reader feel or think? Which ones work the best?
- How are the two texts different in what they are trying to do?
- Do you like the style of language and choice of vocabulary in this text? Which are your favourites? Does the language suit the purpose of the text?

## Questions about evaluation, opinion and overview



- What do you think about the text as a whole? Why?
- Can you clearly explain your point of view?
- What are the main ideas across the whole text?
- Did you change your mind about anything as you were reading? What made you do this?
- Look at the text and find... What is your opinion of ...?
- I'd like to have a clearer idea of why you think that. What else can you say?
- Do you know any other stories which have openings / endings / patterns like this one?
- Whose viewpoint is the writer trying to show here?
- Which of these two texts is more effective? Why do you say that?
- If you were the writer and wanted to present your ideas on this subject, which writing genre would you choose? Why is that?
- Which of these two poems is your favourite and why? Try to back up your answer with ideas or words from the poems.
- Which genre of texts do you choose to read yourself? What is it about them that you prefer?
- You've told me you don't really like this text. Can you think of something specific about the text to explain why you don't like it? How do you think the writer could have improved this?
- Which of the characters in this text do you think is the strongest character, and how did the writer achieve this?
- What is your opinion of other texts by this writer? Do you have a particular preference? Why is that?
- What kind of poetry do you prefer and why? That's interesting. Can you say more about that, so that I clearly understand you?