

Discussion Director

ETHICS
BIG IDEAS
MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES
UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

Your job is to create a list of questions that your group will use to discuss the selection. Don't focus too much on the details; your task is to help foster a discussion about the "big ideas" or themes within the selection. Great discussion questions can be found by considering your own thoughts, emotions, or concerns as you read. Some of the very best discussion questions can be answered in almost opposite ways and are supported with evidence from the selection.

Sample Questions:

1. How did you feel when reading this selection?
2. Were you surprised by anything in the selection?
3. Do you agree or disagree with...? Why?
4. What unanswered questions do you have about the selection?

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Connector

RULES
ETHICS
TRENDS
ACROSS DISCIPLINES

Your job is to make text-to-self, text-to-world, and text-to-text connections. This means connecting the selection to your own life, to events at your school or within the community, or to information that can be found in other books. There are no right or wrong answers, so go for it and make some meaningful connections!

Presenting:

1. Wait for the Discussion Director to invite you to present.
2. First share the detail from the selection that relates to your connection. Help students open their books to the same page.
3. Identify if your connection is text-to-self, text-to-world, or text-to-text.
4. Share your connection! Repeat these steps until you've shared all of your connections!

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Vocabulary Enricher

RULES
PATTERNS
UNANSWERED QUESTIONS
LANGUAGE OF THE DISCIPLINE

Your job is to scope out some significant/important words or phrases from the selection. While you're reading you can jot down any words that are confusing, and then later find their definitions from a dictionary or a reliable online resource. Include words that stand out to you; perhaps they are used in an unusual way or repeated often in the selection. You may also wish to include words that are key to understanding the selection.

Presenting:

1. Come prepared with words, page numbers, definitions, and notes explaining your choices for each word.
2. Help your group members find the words in the book and discuss what you have collected.

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Literary Luminary

RULES
DETAILS
BIG IDEAS
LANGUAGE OF THE DISCIPLINE

Your job is to collect a few special excerpts from the selection that your group would enjoy hearing read aloud. The purpose is to help your group members remember some interesting, powerful, exciting, confusing, or important elements from the selection. You can read the passages aloud yourself, or have a group member read them aloud.

Presenting:

1. Come prepared with around 3-4 passages to read and their page numbers.
2. Share your reasons for choosing these excerpts (e.g., important, informative, surprising, controversial, funny, well-written, confusing, thought-provoking, etc.)
3. Decide on a plan for reading (e.g., you will read them aloud, group members will read them aloud, or everyone will read them silently to themselves).

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Investigator

ETHICS
TRENDS
RELATE OVER TIME
ACROSS DISCIPLINES

Your job is to do a little research on background information related to any topic of the selection. Don't worry; this isn't a formal research report! Topics to include might be, geography, weather, culture, or history of the selection's setting. Perhaps you can include the origin of words or names used in the selection, or music and/or art that reflect the time period of the selection. You can also include information about the author (e.g., brief biography, other work, etc.).

Gathering Information:

1. Check out the preface or "about the author" section of the book.
2. Check the Internet.
3. Use other novels, nonfiction texts, or your social studies and science textbooks.

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Plot Profiler

DETAILS
PATTERNS
RELATE OVER TIME

Your job is to document all of the important information related to the plot. You will describe each setting in detail making sure to note the page numbers where these settings are introduced. Make sure to also record any significant details that are revealed about the characters, as well a basic timeline of the events of this selection. Another thing to be on the lookout for is "change": change within characters, setting, conflict, etc.

Sample Questions:

1. Important information about the setting(s)
2. Important information about the character(s)
3. A basic timeline of the events in the selection
4. Any significant changes you notice in the selection.

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Illustrator

TRENDS
ETHICS
DETAILS
BIG IDEAS

Your job is to create pictures related to the selection. You can make a sketch, cartoon, diagram, flow-chart, etc. Your illustrations might be based on something specifically mentioned in the book, or they might be based on something that the selection reminded you of. You can also base your drawings on feelings and/or emotions that you felt while reading the selection.

Presenting:

1. Wait for the Discussion Director to invite you to present.
2. Without you commenting, each member of the group can interpret the meanings of your illustrations.
3. Lastly, you get to explain the meaning, significance, and origin of your illustrations.