

## **Socratic Seminar Question Stems**

As you prepare your questions for the Socratic Seminar, consider using these question stems to help you develop critical thinking questions instead of just comprehension questions.

### **Clarification**

- I'm not sure I understand (character, action, event, description, purpose).
- Tell me more about (character, action, event).

### **Cause and Effect**

- Why do you think (event, reaction) happened?
- How could (event, reaction) have been prevented?
- Do you think (event, reaction) would happen that way again? Why?
- What are some reasons (character) (action)?
- Based on the information in the story, predict what will most likely happen if (character) (action).
- What will (character) do now that (event)?

### **Compare / Contrast**

- How are (character) and (character) alike? Different?
- What is (event) similar to in our own time?
- How does this (incident) remind you of (current event)?

### **Benefits / Burdens**

- What are some of the reasons (character's decision, reaction) wouldn't (would) be a good idea?
- Based on the information in the story, what inference/ assumption can you make about (event/theme/character)?

### **Point of View / Perspective**

- How might (character) have felt during (event)?
- What do you think (character) was thinking during (event)?
- How does (character) feel about (character/event, etc)?
- How did (character's experience) influence (character's development, event)?

### **Structure / Function**

- What was the goal when (character) (action)?
- What were (character)'s choices of how to (respond to a situation)?
- What do you think of (character)'s approach to (problem, situation)?
- What better choices could (character) have made concerning (problem, situation)?
- How does (character's action or trait) contribute to the conflict in the story?
- What is the author's purpose for including (character, event, detail)?

### **Different Situation**

- Can you describe a situation in which (character's action) would be acceptable/unacceptable?
- Suppose (event) had happened differently. How would that change the outcome of (event)?

### **Evaluate**

- The author of the story states "\_\_\_\_\_." Do you agree with his/her statement?
- What is wrong with (character's) reasoning concerning (character, situation, event)?
- Does (character's) treatment of (other character/s) seem fair?
- What conclusion can the reader draw about (character/event, etc)?

### **Support Questions/Responses**

- Can you give us an example of . . . ?
- Where in the story . . . ?
- What would be a good reason for . . . ?
- What is some evidence for . . . ?
- I saw it a slightly different way . . .
- That's a good point. What about . . . ?
- I disagree a little. To me, . . .

