Higher Level Questioning Literacy Prompts

Before, During, and After Reading

Marzano's Organizing

Which genre would you classify this story in?

What is the theme of the story?

What facts, ideas, or supporting details support the theme?

In your own words, explain the author's purpose. What was their reason for writing this story.

Marzano's Organizing

Summarize the plot of the story.

How is the main character of this story alike or different from another character you've read about?

What do the characters have in common?

Can you explain what is happening to the main character?

Marzano's Knowing

When did the story take place?

What words best describe the main character?

Identify when the turning point of the story is.

Identify the problem or conflict in the story.

Marzano's Knowing

What words best describe the minor characters?

List three important details about each of the characters.

Who are the characters?

Marzano's Knowing

Where did the story take place?

Who is the main character?

What are some of the problems the main character faced?

Marzano's Analyzing

What conclusions can you draw about the author's purpose based on this story?

What is the theme of the story?

Does the title fit the story? What would be a better choice for a title?

Compare the main character to the other characters? How are they alike? Different?
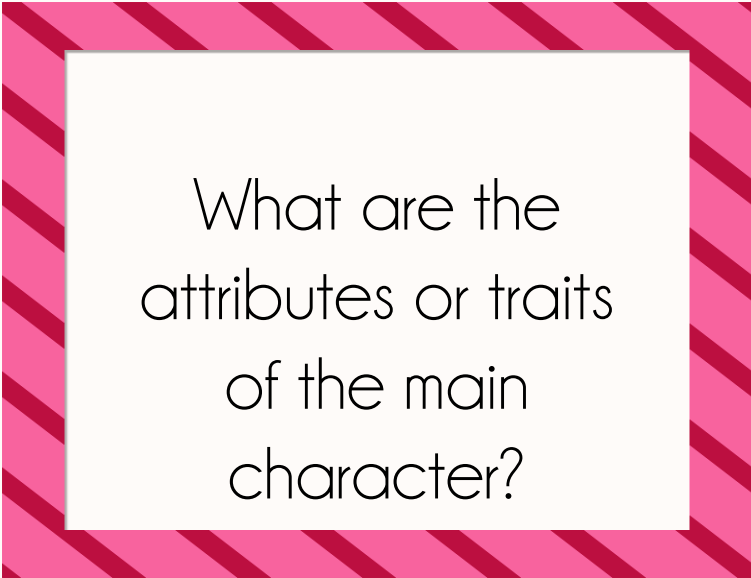
Marzano's Analyzing

Why do you think the main character acted the way he or she did?

What is the plot, or events in this story?

What part of this story could be real? Make believe? Explain your choice.

What are the attributes or traits of the minor characters?

Marzano's Analyzing

What are the attributes or traits of the main character?

Marzano's Applying

How is this story related to another story you have read?

Choose a character trait that best describes one of the characters. Explain your reasons.

Do you know another story or instance where the same situation(s) in this story happened?

What questions would you ask the main character? How do you think they would answer?

Marzano's Applying

How can you use the lessons the characters learned in your own life?

How would you solve the problem the main character is faced with?

Brainstorm a list of possible solutions to the main character's problem.

Marzano's Applying

Select a character trait that best describes one of the characters. Explain your reasons.

How is this story related to another story you have read? (TTT)

What does the main character need in order to solve the problem that he/she is facing?

What examples of literary elements can you find in the story?

Marzano's Evaluating

Determine and explain one of the symbols in the story.

If you could summarize this story in four sentences, what would you choose to say?

Based on what you know, how did the setting affect the story?

How would the story have changed if the main character had acted differently?

Marzano's Evaluating

What choice would you have made if you were the main character? Explain why.

Compare this story to another you've read – think about the plot, characters, setting, etc.

Do you agree with the actions of the main character? Explain.

Marzano's Evaluating

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate the story? Explain your choice.

How effective was the ending of the story? Explain your evaluation.

How effective was the style that the story was written in towards your overall understanding? Explain your answer.

Marzano's Generating

Predict what will happen in the story next.

If the story continued, what do you think would happen next?

What would happen if there was no resolution to one of the conflicts in the story? How would the character react?

How would you adapt the story to keep the same theme, but approach it from a different perpective?

Marzano's Generating

If you were the main character, what would you have done differently? What would you do the same?

How can you explain the resolution of the story? Does it make sense? Explain your answer.

What can you infer about the main character based on what the other characters say or think about him or her?

Marzano's Generating

Suppose you could rewrite the ending. What would you change? Justify your choice.

Assess the importance of the setting to the plot. Did it effect the story?

How would you justify the characters' actions?

Marzano's Integrating

How could you adapt the author's style and make this story into a poem, song, or a movie?

How many different ways can you think of for the story to end?

What would you change to improve the story? Explain your response.

Marzano's Integrating

Retell the story from another character's point of view other then the one the story is told.

Imagine this story is a movie. What would be the most important scenes to shoot?

What would be the result if the main character's problem was not resolved? What generalizations about people can you make after reading this story?

Marzano's Integrating

What changes would you make to the main character in order to solve his or her problem?

Summarize the story in your own words. Make sure to state the main idea!

Use the "Somebody wanted… but… so…" frame to summarize the story.