

COSTA'S THREE LEVELS OF QUESTIONS

1. Factual Questions

- Have only one correct answer
- Can usually be answered by pointing to a passage in the text
- Informational; gathering and recalling information

Ex. What is your name? (identify)

Where were you born and what is it like? (name, describe)

Ex. What does the author or character say? (literary question)

How does "The Road Not Taken" begin? (recite)

2. Interpretive Questions

- Have more than one reasonable answer that can be supported with evidence from the text
- Analytical; processes information; draws conclusions from several sources of information; making sense of gathered information

Ex. What is unique about you? (infer)

How is this school different than your last school? How is it the same? (compare and contrast)

What parts of English are you good at? (analyze)

Ex. What does the author or character mean? (literary question)

In "The Bet" by Chekhov, how do the lawyer and the banker differ in their attitudes toward punishment?

3. Evaluative/Universal Questions

- Asks us to decide if we agree with the author's or character's ideas or point of view
- The answer depends on our personal experiences, values, and interpretation of the literature
- Judging; hypothetical and creative; applying and evaluating information

Ex. What is your favorite band and why? (defend an opinion)

Do you agree that the government should pay for your public education until 12th grade? (evaluate)

If you were an animal, which would be most like you and why? (hypothesize)

Critical and Creative Thinking

Ex. Do I agree with what the author or character is saying? (literary question)

Which of the characters in Great Expectations do you think suffered the most? (judgment).

In Catcher in the Rye, how might Phoebe, years later, describe Holden to her children? (speculation)