

Third Grade Text Genres and Predictable Questions

These are examples of the different genres third graders read and the lines of questioning that might appear on the 2011 test. These samples are directly from the 2008 – 2010 ELA, the predictive tests and the NAEP 2009, 2011 standardized federal exam and the NYS ELA Learning Standards. We will update you if and when there is any additional information.

*** Indicates what the students have had trouble with**

| Narrative Structure | Predictable Questions |
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| <p>Realistic Fiction Identify and discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characters – main and secondary • Main character’s problem/conflict • Rising tension • Sequence of events, e.g.: This happened first, which caused this to happen. Then this happened, which made this happen... • Change in the story • Solution/resolution • Setting • Conclusion • Author’s purpose – to entertain and to convey a message | <p>What trait would you use to describe the character? What is the same about these two characters?*</p> <p>This happened because.....*</p> <p>Why did this happen?*</p> <p>Which is a fact from the story? Why is not? Which is an opinion about what this character is doing?*</p> |
| <p>Folktales/Allegory Identify and discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the above and: • that these are stories from the past and may represent different cities, countries, cultures • the lesson/moral of the tale • that characters may be animals • Author’s purpose – to teach a lesson/moral | <p>Which detail is not important to the plot in this passage? Which words from the passage have almost the same meaning?*</p> <p>What’s the problem? Why did the problem occur? This problem happened because _____ What moral/lesson does this passage teach you?*</p> |
| <p>Narrative Nonfiction (had problems with the informational part) Identify and discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the above (narrative, not folktale) • That this is a story but it is about a real person or subject or situation • Person’s struggles, motivations, and achievements • Information about the world/time period/subject that is taught through this true narrative • Author’ purpose – to inform | <p>Which trait would you use to describe the person in the text? This happened because.....*</p> <p>Why did this happen? What motivated the person to do what she did? What happened right after _____? This person achieved _____ This story gives us information about _____* What is this mostly about?*</p> <p>Draw a conclusion about why the author said at the end*</p> |
| <p>Biography (had problems with the informational part) Identify and discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the above (Narrative Nonfiction) • Why the person became great • That the perspective is that of another person rather than the subject of the biography (as is the case with an autobiography) | <p>Which trait would you use to describe the person in the text? This happened because.....*</p> <p>Why did this happen? What motivated the person to do what she did?</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text boxes and picture support to locate information • Author’s purpose – to inform | <p>This person achieved _____</p> <p>Which is a fact about the person’s problem?</p> <p>What happened right after _____?</p> <p>This story gives us information about _____*</p> <p>What is this mostly about?*</p> <p>Draw a conclusion about how what _____ did will be used _____*</p> |
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Expository Structure

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| <p>Informational*</p> <p>Identify and discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to, All About, Question and Answer, Advertisements, List , Letter, Reports • That this type of text provides information pertaining to a main idea and details to support that main idea • Titles, questions and captions support the main idea • Text boxes and picture support to locate information • New information, misleading pictures, captions, text messages | <p>What happened after _____?</p> <p>What happened before _____?</p> <p>What’s the purpose of the letter?</p> <p>What do the questions that are being asked tell us about the main purpose of the interview?*</p> <p>Why is the author giving us this information?</p> <p>This word means _____?*</p> <p>Which detail supports what the author is saying about _____?</p> <p>Which detail tells us _____?</p> <p>Why did _____ change after _____?</p> <p>What is the purpose of the illustration _____?*</p> <p>What is _____ trying to</p> <p>What is another title for this story?</p> <p>What is the main idea?</p> <p>Which detail best supports the main idea?</p> <p>Which is a fact?</p> <p>The author wrote this story to _____?*</p> <p>What is this mostly about?*</p> |
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Both Structures

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| <p>Poetry*</p> <p>Identify and discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That a poem may tell a story • That a poem may provide information • That a poem may draw a picture • Figurative language • Stanzas • White Space • Repeating language • Theme(s) • Rhyme (when applicable) • Alliteration, and the use of literary devices such as idioms, personification, similes and metaphors | <p>Who is talking in the poem? *</p> <p>What would _____ do next?</p> <p>How does _____ feel at the beginning of the poem? *</p> <p>How does _____ feel at the end of the poem?*</p> <p>Which stanza could not really happen?*</p> <p>Read these lines from the poem: _____.</p> <p>What do these lines most likely mean?*</p> <p>Which line best describes how _____ expresses _____?*</p> <p>Read these lines from the poem: _____</p> <p>How would _____most likely respond to these lines?</p> <p>The character in the middle decided to _____</p> <p>The statement _____(figurative language) means _____*</p> <p>The narrator sees the main character in the poem as _____</p> <p>What feeling is the speaker expressing in the poem?*</p> <p>How does the poet feel about _____?</p> |
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