

Standards-based Question Stems

Fourth Grade

Standard: ELA.4.R.1 Reading Prose and Poetry

Benchmark: Literary Elements

ELA.4.R.1.1: Explain how setting, events, conflict, and character development contribute to the plot in a literary text.

DOK 1 (Recall):

- What can you tell me about _____ character?
- How does the character react in the story?
- The main character feels _____ (explicitly stated) in the passage.
- Select the sentences in the story that show that the main character is _____ (explicitly stated).
- Identify a detail that show Character A is _____ (explicitly stated).
- Describe _____ (character) in the text (explicitly stated).
- The conversation between _____ (characters) in paragraphs ____ through ____ shows that _____ (character) is _____.
- What is the event presented?
- Describe _____ in the text (explicitly stated).

DOK 2 (Skill/Concept)

- Which details does the author provide to show us how the characters interact with each other?
- How does the dialogue help you to understand the characters and their actions?
- Which two sentences should be included in a summary passage? (Teacher gives options.)
- How does the author use _____ to describe _____?
- **Two-Part Question**

Part A: What is the theme of the passage?

Part B: How do the character's actions support the theme of the text?

- **Two-Part Question**

Part A: Based on the information in the passage, how does the reader know that the main character is _____?

Part B: Select details from the text to support your answer.

- How does _____ (character) respond to the situation?
- Why does ____ (character) do _____ (action)? Use text evidence to support your answer.
- What can the reader conclude about _____ (character)?
- Which sentence on page ____ show best shows that _____ (character) realizes that _____?
- What statement best reflects the author's tone in this text.

- **Two-Part Question**

Part A: How does the character respond to _____? (Implicitly stated)

Part B: Select the sentences that show this feeling.

- **Two-Part Question**

Part A: What has the main character learned by the end of the story?

Part B: What important events from the entire story caused him/her to learn this?

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Benchmark: Literary Elements

ELA.4.R.1.1: Explain how setting, events, conflict, and character development contribute to the plot in a literary text.

DOK 3 (Strategic Thinking):

- How does the character change throughout the story?
- How did the character's actions affect the outcome of the story?
- How are one character's actions affected by the main character's actions.
- Summarize the main characters actions and the effects on the outcome of the story?
- What might the main character do differently if he/she finds him/herself in a similar situation again.
- At what point in the story were you certain that _____ had changed his/her mind about _____?
- **Two-Part Question**
 - Part A: Describe how the main character responds to the problem.
 - Part B: How does the main character's actions affect the theme of the text?
- **Two-Part Question**
 - Part A: What does the text suggest about _____?
 - Part B: Which detail(s) support your answer?
- Analyze in detail how a key individual or character is introduced and developed throughout the text.
- What tone is created by the author's use of _____?

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Standard: ELA.4.R.1 Reading Prose and Poetry
Benchmark: Theme

ELA.4.R.1.2: Explain stated or implied theme and how it develops, using details, in a literary text.

DOK 1 (Recall)

- What does theme mean?
- What is a central message of the text?
- What is the theme of the text?
- What is one theme presented in this text?
- What is the main message?
- Which of the following does the character do first?

DOK 2 (Skill/Concept)

- Provide a summary of what the text says.
- Select the sentence that summarizes the passage. (Teacher provides options.)
- Choose words or phrases that support the theme of the text.
- Write a sentence to explain theme of the text using text evidence to support your answer.
- How does the author use _____ contribute to the theme of the text?
- **Two-Part Question:**
Part A: The theme of the text is _____.
Part B: Select two details in the passage that support this idea.
- **Two-Part Question:**
Part A: What is the theme of this text?
Part B: Use text evidence to support your answer.
- **Two-Part Question:**
Part A: What is the theme of this text?
Part B: How do _____ character's actions support the answer in Part A?
- Paragraph ____ is important to the theme of the story because it shows _____.
- How is the theme of _____ similar to the theme of _____? Explain using text evidence.

DOK 3 (Strategic Thinking)

- How does the author convey the lesson or theme of the text?
- What is the most important information the author wants you to know?
- Can you explain how _____ affected _____?
- Summarize in a paragraph the theme or central message of the story?
- Which of these sentences does not support the theme of the text? Teacher gives 3-4 answer choices.)
- Can there be another theme to the text? If so, explain your thought using text evidence.
- How could the author rewrite the story to change the theme from _____ to _____?

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Fourth Grade

Standard: ELA.4.R.1 Reading Prose and Poetry

Benchmark: Perspective and Point of View

ELA.4.R.1.3 Identify the narrator's point of view and explain the difference between a narrator's point of view and character perspective in a literary text.

DOK 1 (Recall)

- Who is telling the story?
- What is the role of the narrator?
- Who is the narrator of the text?
- What is point of view?
- What is the narrator's stated point of view?
- What is the author's point of view?
- What is a perspective?
- What is the narrator's perspective?
- Is the text in first or third person?

DOK 2 (Skill/Concept)

- **Two-Part Question:**
Part A: Select the part of the story that is told from the point of view of someone other than the main character.
Part B: How did the story change when it was told from the different point of view?
- **Two-Part Question:**
Part A: Who is speaking in the sentence _____ (excerpted text)?
Part B: Select the sentence that supports your answer to Part A.
- What is the character's point of view? Use text evidence to support your answer.
- Explain who is telling the story from the context clues in the story.
- Which of the following correctly describes the point of view in the article? (Teacher gives 3-4 options.)
- Which sentence in the text reveals the author's primary point of view?
- How does _____'s perspective affect _____?
- In the story, how does the author use point of view to tell about _____?
- **Two-Part Question:**
Part A: How is _____'s point of view different from _____'s point of view?
Part B: What could account for these differences?

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Fourth Grade

Standard: ELA.4.R.1 Reading Prose and Poetry
Benchmark: Perspective and Point of View
ELA.4.R.1.3 Explain the character's perspectives in a literary text.

DOK 3 (Strategic Thinking)

- Summarize the narrator's point of view and what text supports this point of view?
- Why did the narrator describe the events the way he/she did?
- Can you explain how the narrator affected the story?
- How would the story be different if another character was telling the story?
- What is the narrator's perspective? Is the narrator in the story, or is the story being told by an outside observer? Use text evidence to support your answer.
- How does the narrator's point of view influence the actions in the story?
- How does the perspective of ____ (character) influence _____ (person or event)?
- **Two-Part Question:**
 - Part A:** Compare the account of these two characters given in the text.
 - Part B:** What are the differences in how they tell the text?
- What is the author's purpose for writing this text from his/her point of view?
- Explain how the author's point of view affects how events are described using details from the text.

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Fourth Grade

Standard: ELA.4.R.1 Reading Prose and Poetry
Benchmark: Poetry

ELA.4.R.1.4: Explain how rhyme and structure create meaning in a poem.

DOK 1 (Recall):

- What is a poem?
- Which of these lines from the poem rhyme?
- The speaker in this poem is _____.
- What is the speaker's main purpose in the poem?
- Which poetic structure is found in the poem?
- The reader can tell the poem is written in free verse because _____.

DOK 2 (Skill/Concept):

- What is the theme presented in the poem?
- How does the speaker feel throughout the poem?
- The poem is mostly about a speaker who _____.
- What is the tone of the poem? Use text evidence to prove the tone.
- The poet uses lines ___ through ___ mainly to _____.
- **Two-Part Question:**
Part A: How does stanza 1 differ from stanza 2.
Part B: Select words for phrases from the text that shows the difference.
- Based on the poem, what can the reader conclude the main character?
- The poem expresses the importance of _____?
- Lines _____ and _____ are important to the poem because _____.
- What does stanza ___ add to the poem?

DOK 3 (Strategic Thinking):

- Summarize the poem.
- Analyze the _____ (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) stanza.
- **Two-Part Question:**
Part A: How does stanza 1 differ from stanza 2.
Part B: Select words for phrases from the text that shows the difference.
- In line _____, which does the poet repeat and italicize the words from line _____?
- What idea does the poet convey through the description of _____ (character) in lines _____ through _____?

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Fourth Grade

Standard: ELA.4.R.2 Reading Informational Text Benchmark: Structure

ELA.4.R.2.1: Explain how text features contribute to meaning and identify the text structures of problem/solution, sequence and description in texts.

DOK 1 (Recall):

- Which information (explicitly stated) can be found under the heading _____?
- Which part of the selection can the reader find information about _____?
- What can the reader learn from the chart on p. ____?
- What information is presented in this text (explicitly stated)?
- Select the words in the text that show what information the illustration provides the reader.
- In what ways does the author present information about?
- What did you learn from the diagram that you did not learn from the reading?
- What does the reader understand using the information from the text and the illustrations?

DOK 2 (Skill/Concept):

- Explain why it is more efficient to use headings instead of an index to locate _____.
- How are pictures and illustrations alike and different?
- Which text feature best supports the main idea of this paragraph?
- In the article, how does the picture/chart of the _____ support the author's message?
- Which detail from the text supports the idea that _____?
- What inferences can you make about the text based on the illustrations?

DOK 3 (Strategic Thinking):

- What caption would you write for this photograph?
- Write an appropriate heading for this paragraph.
- How do the text features on this page relate to each other?
- Compare and contrast two text features on this page.
- Create an additional text feature for this book.
- Choose one of the text features and write your own paragraph to support the text.
- How would the book have been different if the author had not included text features?

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Fourth Grade

Standard: ELA.4.R.2 Informational Text Benchmark: Central Idea

ELA.4.R.2.2: Explain how relevant details support the central idea, implied or explicit.

DOK 1 (Recall):

- What is the central idea of this text, implicit?
- What is the central idea of the text, explicit?
- The author wrote this text mainly to _____.
- What is the main topic of the text?
- What happens in this text?
- What are the relevant details of the text?
- Which sentence best reflects the central idea of the text?
- Which sentence best characterizes the character's attitude toward _____?
- What kind of details does the author use to support the main idea?

DOK 2 (Skill/Concept)

- Write a sentence to explain the central idea of the text using relevant details.
- How does _____ contribute to the topic of this text?
- How does the author use _____ to describe?
- **Two Part Question**
Part A: What is the central idea of the text?
Part B: Select a sentence from the passage that best supports your answer.
- Which of these is a good summary sentence for the central idea of the text? (Teacher gives 3-4 options)
- Which of these is not a relevant detail that supports the central idea of the text?
- Lines ___ and ___ suggest that _____.
- Which sentence from the story shows that _____ (character) does not want _____ (action).

DOK 3 (Strategic Thinking)

- How does the author develop the main topic using relevant details?
- How does the author convey the central idea of the text?
- What is the most important information about the central idea that the author wants you to know?
- Which of these details does not support the central idea of the text?
- Is _____ a good title for the text? Why or why not?
- Summarize, in your own words, the central idea of the text including relevant details.
- Why is it important to the story that _____ characters do _____?
- What affect does _____ (character's actions) have on the story?

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Fourth Grade

Standard: ELA.4.R.2 Informational Text

Benchmark: Purpose and Perspective

ELA.4.R.2.3: Explain an author's perspective toward a topic in an informational text.

DOK 1 (Recall):

- What is the author's perspective about _____ in this text?
- The author wrote this article mainly to _____.
- What is the author's attitude toward _____?

DOK 2 (Skill/Concept)

- What details in the text helped you to determine the points being made by the author?
- Which of the following statement(s) (teacher options) correctly describes the author's perspective in the article?
- What is the author's position and how does he address opposing points of view?
- Which sentence from page ___ in the text reveals the author's perspective?
- The author includes paragraph ___ on page ___ most likely to _____.
- The author includes sections _____ to _____.
- The author's purpose of paragraphs _____ and _____ is to _____.
- The author's purpose in this text is most likely to tell the reader that _____.
- The author's purpose in this text is most likely to explain _____.
- What detail did the author provide to convey the difference between ___ and ___?

DOK 3 (Strategic Thinking)

- How does the author's perspective impact what the reader learns about in the text?

Two-part Question:

Part A: What does the author hope to accomplish by writing this text?

Part B: What is the strongest text evidence that the author uses to accomplish this purpose?

- The author's perspective is best supported by _____. Use text evidence to support your answer.

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Standard: ELA.4.R.2 Informational Text

Benchmark: Argument

ELA.4.R.2.4: Explain an author's claim and the reasons and evidence used to support the claim.

DOK 1 (Recall):

- How do authors support their ideas?
- What is a claim?
- Why do you think the author wrote that?
- Are there any reasons why you think the author likes...?
- What in the writing made you think that ____?
- What are the reasons the author wrote this piece?
- How and where did the author support his reasoning?
- What important points does the author make?
- What is the author's attitude toward _____?
- How does the author express his claim?
- What does the author mean when he writes ____?
- Choose the statement that best expresses the author's claim. (Teacher provides options.)

DOK 2 (Skill/Concept)

- Based on information in the text, which reasons support the author's ideas?
- What evidence does the author give for his/her opinion?
- What evidence does the author use to support the idea that _____?
- What is the best reason the author provides to support his/her opinion or idea? Use at least TWO details from the text.
- What points is the author making, including reasons and evidence?
- How does the author use reasons and evidence to support the point of _____ in the text?
- What are key points the author wants us to know about this topic?
- Why does the author pose this question: _____?
- Why did the author choose _____?

DOK 3 (Strategic Thinking)

- Why did the author use the examples that he/she did?
- What inference can you make about the points the author is making?
- What other reasons could the author have given to support his/her/point?
- How does the author make his/her points clear?
- What is the strongest evidence the author uses in support of his claim? Why? Use text evidence to support your answer.
- What evidence could you the author have added to make the points stronger?
- What is the weakest evidence the author has and why?

Standards-based Question Stems

Fourth Grade

Standard: ELA.4.R.3 Reading Across Genres

Benchmark: Figurative Language

ELA.4.R.3.1: Explain how figurative language contributes to meaning in text(s).

DOK 1 (Recall):

- What is a simile?
- What is an idiom?
- What is an alliteration?
- Identify a simile in the text.
- Identify an idiom in the text.
- Identify an alliteration in the text.
- Identify a simile, idiom, or alliteration in paragraph _____, or page _____ in the text.
- What is a metaphor?
- What is personification?
- What is hyperbole?
- Identify a metaphor in the text.
- Identify an example of personification in the text.
- Identify an example of personification in the text.

DOK 2 (Skill/Concept)

- How can you use the words and sentences around an unknown word to figure out what the simile, idiom or alliteration _____ means?
- How can you use the words and sentences around an unknown word to figure out what the metaphor, personification, or hyperbole _____ means?
- What would the literal meaning of _____ be? What is the intended meaning?
- **Two-Part Question:**
 - Part A:** What does the author mean by the phrase _____?
 - Part B:** How does the author illustrate this phrase in the passage?
- How do the words or phrases help you picture what is happening?
- What does the word or phrase, _____, describe in this sentence?
- What does the phrase _____ mean in the text? What type of figurative language is this?
- Find an example of figurative language in paragraph _____? What is the author's intended meaning?
- What is the meaning of _____ in paragraph _____?

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Standard: ELA.4.R.3 Reading Across Genres

Benchmark: Figurative Language

ELA.4.R.3.1: Explain how figurative language contributes to the meaning in text(s).

DOK 3 (Strategic Thinking):

- How does the word/phrase help you understand the text/meaning as whole?
- Explain why the author chose to use the words _____ on page _____ or paragraph _____.
- Write a sentence related to the text using a simile, idiom or alliteration.
- Write a sentence related to the text using metaphor, personification, or hyperbole.
- Based on the _____ (simile, idiom or alliteration), what might you infer about _____?
- Based on the _____ (metaphor, personification, or hyperbole), what might you infer about _____?
- What does the author imply by saying _____?
- Create a summary of the and include two types of figurative language.
- Restate _____ (figurative language) in your words.

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Standard: ELA.4.R.3 Reading Across Genres
ELA.4.R.3.2.: Summarize a text to enhance comprehension.
a. Include plot and theme for a literary text.

DOK 1 (Recall)

- Who are the characters in the text and what role do they play?
- Describe the story elements in this text.
- What happened in the beginning of this text?
- What is this text about?
- What happens in this text?
- What is the theme?
- What problems do the characters encounter?
- How do the characters react to the problem?
- What solution do the characters find to solve the problem?

DOK 2 (Skill/Concept)

- **Two-Part Question:**
Part A: What happens in this text?
Part B: Which sentences help you determine this?
- Place key details in the correct order in a graphic organizer.
- Which sentence shows why _____ happened?
- Can you explain why _____ happened in the story?
- **Two-Part Question:**
Part A: What is the theme?
Part B: Which sentences from the text help you determine this?
- How does the sequence of events contribute to the solution?
- How did _____ influence ____?
- Which sentences should be included in the summary of the text? (Teacher gives options.)

DOK 3 (Strategic Thinking)

- Write a summary of the text including the plot and the theme.
- How could the author rewrite the text to change from _____ to _____? (ex. injustice to justice)
- Could there be another theme for this text? If so, you evidence from the text to support your answer.
- How does the author develop theme through _____?
- **Two-part Question:**
Part 1: What does the text suggest about _____?
Part 2: Which detail gives support for your answer?

Standards-based Question Stems

Fourth Grade

Standard: ELA.4.R.3 Reading Across Genres

ELA.4.R.3.2.: Summarize a text to enhance comprehension.

b. Include the central idea and relevant details for an informational text.

DOK 1 (Recall):

- What is the central idea of this text, implicit?
- What is the central idea of the text, explicit?
- The author wrote this text mainly to _____.
- What is the main topic of the text?
- What happens in this text?
- What are the relevant details of the text?
- Which sentence best reflects the central idea of the text?
- Which sentence best characterizes the character's attitude toward _____?
- What kind of details does the author use to support the main idea?

DOK 2 (Skill/Concept)

- Write a sentence to explain the central idea of the text using relevant details.
- How does _____ contribute to the topic of this text?
- How does the author use _____ to describe?
- **Two Part Question**
Part A: What is the central idea of the text?
Part B: Select a sentence from the passage that best supports your answer.
- Which of these is a good summary sentence for the central idea of the text? (Teacher gives 3-4 options)
- Which of these is not a relevant detail that supports the central idea of the text?
- Lines ___ and ___ suggest that _____.
- Which sentence from the story shows that _____ (character) does not want _____ (action).

DOK 3 (Strategic Thinking)

- How does the author develop the main topic using relevant details?
- How does the author convey the central idea of the text?
- What is the most important information about the central idea that the author wants you to know?
- Which of these details does not support the central idea of the text?
- Is _____ a good title for the text? Why or why not?
- Summarize in writing the central idea of the text including relevant details.
- Why is it important to the story that _____ characters do _____?
- What affect does _____ (character's actions) have on the story?

Standards-based Question Stems

Fourth Grade

Standard: ELA.4.R.3 Reading Across Genres Benchmark: Comparative Reading

ELA.4.R.3.3: Compare and contrast accounts of the same event using primary and/or secondary sources.

DOK 1 (Recall):

- What is a primary source?
- What is a secondary source?
- Is this text from a primary source or a secondary source? How do you know?

DOK 2 (Skill/Concept)

- What information does the primary source add to the secondary source?
- What information does the secondary source add to the primary source?
- How does the author of _____ present the information about _____ compared to the author of _____?
- What details does the author use to convey _____?

DOK 3 (Strategic Thinking)

- Is the differing information factual or someone's opinion/perception?
- How is the information in topic _____ related to topic _____?
- Write why the relationship found in these texts are the same.
- Justify why the details are different about the same topic. Use text evidence to support your answer.
- Which author's style is easier to understand and why do you feel this way? Use text evidence to support your answer.