# Low and high cognitive questions

Examples for reading comprehension

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| Question Type | Examples |
| Type 1 (Low order, closed)  Knowledge - retention of terminology, facts, conventions, methodologies, structures, principles  list, define, describe, show, name, what, when | * Name all the characters in the story. * List five facts from the story. * When does the story take place? * Where does the story take place? * Which character appears first in the story? * How does the story end? * From what you read in the story, how would you describe what the main character looks like? * How would you describe the setting using facts you read in the story? |
| Type 2 (Low order, closed)  Comprehension - grasping of meaning, translation, extrapolation, interpretation of facts, making comparisons  summarise, compare and contrast, estimate, discuss | * What is the story about? * How did the main character feel at the beginning of the story? * How did the main character feel at the end of the story? * Think of a main event in the story. Why did it happen? * Why does the story have this title? * What is the main event in the story? * Explain why this picture may have been used. * What happened before/after this picture? |
| Type 3 (High order, closed)  Application - problem solving, usage of information in a new way  apply, calculate, complete, show, solve, modify | * Think of a situation that occurred to a person in your story and decide whether you would have done the same thing as or something different. What might you have done? * Give some examples of people who have had the same problems or have done the same kind of thing as the person in your story. * What are some things this character/s might do if he came to your school during reading? * What would you do if you could go to the place where the main character lives? * What would the main character do if he came to your house to visit? * If you had to cook a meal for the characters in the story, what would you cook? * If you met the main character in the story on the street, what would you talk about? |
| Type 4 (Low order, open)  Analysis - making inferences and supporting them with evidence, identification of patterns  separate, arrange, classify, explain | * What part of the story was the funniest; or the most exciting; or the saddest? * Tell what things happened in the story that couldn’t have happened in real life? * Which of the things in the story were true and which were opinions; whose opinion? * Organise the story into parts - what would be good titles for each of the parts? * What could you do that was just like what the person in the story did? * Find five words in the story that begin with the same sound. |
| Type 5 (High order, open)  Synthesis - derivation of abstract relations, prediction, generalisation, creation of new ideas  integrate, modify, substitute, design, create, What if..., formulate, generalise, prepare | * How could you tell the story from an animal’s point of view? * What would you put into a picture about the story? What would you add to the picture that was not in the story? * What would be the best was to tell this story if not in a book? * What is another possible ending to the story that is different from the one that the author wrote? * Pretend you are the main character. What might you write in your diary about this day? * How would you rewrite the story briefly, changing someone or something in it (for example, substitute a dog for a wolf in “The Three Little Pigs”). How would this change the meaning of the original story? |
| Type 6 (High order, open)  Evaluation - judgement of validity, usage of a set of criteria to make conclusions, discrimination  assess, rank, test, explain, discriminate, critique, support | * Was the main character in the story good or bad? Why? * Compare any two books you’ve read and tell which one you would recommend to your friend/s and why you would. * Compare two characters in the story. Tell which one you think is the bravest and why? * Which character in the story would you most like to spend the day with? Why? * Was this story worth the time it took to read? Why? * If you had the opportunity to go where this story takes place, would you want to go? Why/why not? |