

Costa's Levels of Inquiry

Inquiry is an important aspect of curriculum. Inquiry-based learning focuses on the student as a learner developing and becoming adept with open-ended questioning skills. Being able to recognize different levels of questions is beneficial for all students and areas of learning. Understanding Costa's Levels of Thinking and Questioning, explored below, is critical for student success.

<p>Level One Questions (Text-Explicit) Readers can point to one correct answer right in the text.</p>	
<p>Question Starters Words found in these questions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define • Observe • Describe • Name • Identify • Recite • Note • List 	<p>Example Prompts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define <i>irony</i>. (English) • Identify the starting date of the American Revolution. (History) • Define <i>tangent</i>. (Math) • Define <i>photosynthesis</i>. (Science)
<p>Level Two Questions (Text-Implicit) Readers infer answers from what the text implicitly states, finding answers in several places in the text.</p>	
<p>Question Starters Words found in these questions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze • Group • Synthesize • Compare and Contrast • Infer • Sequence 	<p>Example Prompts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and contrast Mr. Frank and Mr. van Daan in <i>Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl</i>. (English) • Analyze the causes of the American Revolution. (History) • Analyze the coordinates on the temperature graph. (Math) • Diagram and order the stages of photosynthesis. (Science)
<p>Level Three Questions (Experience-Based) Readers think beyond what the text states. Answers are based on readers' prior knowledge/experiences and will vary.</p>	
<p>Question Starters Words found in these questions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate • Judge • Apply a Principle • Speculate • Imagine • Predict • Hypothesize 	<p>Example Prompts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predict how Charlie Gordon will change after his operation in <i>Flowers for Algernon</i>. (English) • Imagine that you were a soldier fighting in the Civil War. How would you feel? (History) • Apply the Pythagorean theorem as if you were a firefighter trying to reach a window. (Math) • Diagram the stages of photosynthesis and predict how long each one takes. (Science)