

Possible Conference Questions

Questions that Monitor a Reading Life:

What are you reading? How did you choose it?
How do you find good books?
What's on your Next list?
Which authors are your favorites?
How much did you read last year?
Do you consider yourself a reader?
Where do you read at home?

Questions that drive a Teaching Reading Strategies conference:

How is the reading going for you?
Is this an easy or a hard read for you? How do you know?
Tell me about a time when this book has confused you and what you've done to get yourself back on track in your understanding.
Tell me about these characters—who they are, what do you think of them?
What questions are at the heart of this book? What questions might the author be trying to answer through the struggles of these characters?
I see you're almost finished with the book. When you think back over the way a character has changed in this story, can you point to specific moments when something was revealed about this character? Could you make a claim about this character and support it with evidence from the text?
How is this book different from the last book you read?

Questions that drive a conference to Increase Complexity and Challenge:

What else have you read by this author?
What other books have you read that are as difficult as this one?
Which books on your next list are challenging?
Have you considered how to push yourself as a reader?
Which genres have you read this year?
Tell me about a genre you don't usually read and lets think about books that might ease the transition from what you love to what will challenge you to think differently.
Tell me about a book you've dropped this year. Why did you drop it?
How are the books you've been reading this year similar?

9th Grade Book Clubs

Read all of the pages assigned each week before your Book Club meets.

Goals: to encourage thinking about the ideas in these books and to broaden understanding of themes and the development of characters by discussing these books with others; to participate in an online community book club, learning from the perspectives of others, something both of your teachers have found valuable in our reading lives.

Bring 1 question and 1 comment to each book club meeting. If you are absent on the day the group meets, we expect you to join the discussion online.

Thought Log writing for 1st meeting:

1. Who's here, how are they connected, and what are they like?
2. What kind of place is this?
3. What's the trouble?

Thought Log writing for 2nd meeting:

1. What's the trouble?
2. What are the obstacles?
3. How do the characters deal with them?
4. How do the characters interact?
5. What's the impact of setting on character, plot, and conflict?

Thought Log writing for 3rd meeting:

1. What is changing?
2. What is propelling the change?
3. Who wins the conflict?
4. How is the conflict resolved?

Thought Log writing for 4th meeting:

1. What loose ends are tying up?
2. How are the characters affected by the change?
3. How will life go on (or not)?

~thought log questions adapted from Donna Santman, NCTE presentation 2015