

Questioning Stems for Nonfiction

Thinking Within the Text:

1. What did you learn about _____?
2. What happened first in the book?
3. What happened next?
4. What happened at the end?
5. What are the different kinds of _____?
6. What are some of the important facts about _____?
7. What did you learn from the photograph/drawing/chart/map/timeline?
8. What is a _____?
9. Give an example of a word from the glossary.
10. What is true about _____?
11. What causes _____?
12. What is an example of _____ that was described in this book?
13. What were the important points made in this book?

Thinking Beyond the Text:

1. Does this book make you think of other things?
2. What is the best thing about _____?
3. What is the worst thing about _____?
4. Why do you think this writer wanted to tell you about _____?
5. How is _____ like _____?
6. How is _____ different from _____?
7. Why are _____ important to us?
8. What would happen if _____?
9. What information does the photograph/heading give you?
10. What was the most important idea in this book?
11. How does _____ change?
12. What is unusual about _____?
13. Why do people feel _____ about _____?
14. How does _____ influence people?
15. What is a question you still have about _____?
16. Tell why _____ is complicated.
17. What is the significance of _____?

Thinking About the Text:

1. Is this a good title for the piece? Why/why not?
2. Look at the heading on page _____. How does this heading help you read the book?
3. Look at the sections and read the headings. Do you think this was a good way to organize the information? Why/why not? How might you have organized it differently?
4. How did the writer help you understand different points of view about the topic?
5. What side do you think the writer is on? Why do you think that?
6. How did the writer make this book interesting?
7. Look at the way the writer began the book. Do you think it was a good way to begin? Why/why not?
8. Look at the way the writer ended the book. Was it a good way to end? Why/why not?
9. Why do you think the writer wrote the book?
10. Look back at the text and find some powerful descriptive words. Explain what they mean and why the writer chose to use them.
11. How did the writer help you to imagine _____ as if you were there? Give an example.
12. How does the writer communicate the feeling of _____? Give examples.
13. Explain what the writer meant when she/he said _____.

14. Does the writer give a balanced view of this topic? Give examples from the text to support your answer.