

Active Reading Strategy: ASKING GOOD QUESTIONS

There are **three levels of questions** we will use when creating or answering questions about a text:

Level 1 – Literal

Level One Questions can be answered explicitly by facts contained in the text. (The answers to these questions are clearly in the text. You might even be able to literally point to the answer!)

Level 2 – Interpretive

Level Two Questions are textually implicit, requiring analysis and interpretation of specific parts of the text. The reader must apply their knowledge to the text. (The reader must “read between the lines” (infer) for the answers to questions on this level.)

Level 3 – Universal/Evaluative

Level Three Questions are much more open-ended and go *beyond* the text. They are intended to provoke a discussion of an abstract idea or issue. (These questions ask “So what? Why does it matter?”)

Let’s look at some example questions based on “Cinderella”:

Level 1 Questions - Literal	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How many step-sisters does Cinderella have? ● Where does Cinderella want to go? ● What will happen at midnight? ● What material are Cinderella’s shoes made of? 	<i>Notice how all these questions are really basic and literal (easy and right from the book).</i>
Level 2 Questions - Interpretive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why doesn’t Cinderella’s step-family want her to attend the ball? ● Do you think the prince would have fallen in love with Cinderella even if she hadn’t received a make over? ● In what ways does the Fairy Godmother assist Cinderella? ● How do you think Cinderella feels about her step-family? 	<i>Notice how these questions either ask you to analyze how characters’ feelings or motivations, to make predictions, to piece together parts of the text, or to make a connection to the text.</i>
Level 3 Questions- Universal/Evaluative	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why do step-parents often have difficulty getting along with their step-children? ● Do you believe in love-at-first-sight? ● Has anyone ever given you help when you least expected it? ● How much do you judge people based on their appearances? 	<i>Notice how these questions deal with themes from the text, but you don’t have to actually have read the text to answer the questions. These questions are trying to bring the text into the real world.</i>

