

## **Socratic Seminar Question Stems**

As you prepare your questions for the Socratic Seminar, consider using these question stems to help you develop critical thinking questions instead of just comprehension questions.

### **Clarification**

I'm not sure I understand (idea/ topic, character, action, event, description, purpose) in the text titled "\_\_\_\_\_".

Tell me more about (idea/topic, character, action, event).

### **Cause and Effect**

Why do you think (event, reaction) happened?

How could (event, reaction) have been prevented?

Do you think (event, reaction) would happen that way again? Why?

What are some reasons (TOPIC) (action)?

Based on the information in the text, predict what will most likely happen if (action).

What should (X) do in order to (Y)?

### **Compare / Contrast**

How are (X) and (Y) alike? Different?

What is (event/idea) similar/ relevant to our own context?

How does this (text/ incident) remind you of (current event/ topic of interest)?

### **Benefits / Burdens**

What are some of the reasons (claim, argument, character's decision, reaction) wouldn't/ would be a good idea?

Based on the information in the text, "TITLED" by AUTHOR, what inference/ assumption can you make about (argument/event/theme/character)?

### **Point of View / Perspective**

How might (author/character/ subjects) have felt during (event)?

What do you think (author/character/subject) was thinking while/ during (event)?

How does (author/character/subject) feel about (character/event/argument)?

How did (X's experience) influence (character/argument/development/event point of view)?

## **Structure / Function**

What was the goal when (author/character/subject) (action)?

What were (author/character/subject)'s choices of how to (respond to a situation)?

What do you think of (authors/character/subjects)'s approach to (topic, problem, situation)?

What better choices could (authors/character/subjects) have made concerning (topic, problem, situation)?

How does (author/character/ subject's action or trait) contribute to the conflict or problem of Y?

What is the author's purpose for including (character, event, detail, data)?

## **Different Situation**

Can you describe a situation in which (author's argument, character's action) would be acceptable/unacceptable?

Suppose (event) had happened differently. How would that change the outcome of (event)?

## **Evaluate**

The author of the text, states "\_\_\_\_\_." Do you agree with his/her statement or argument?

What is wrong with (author/ character's) reasoning concerning (character, situation, event)?

Does (author's character's) treatment of (other argument/s) seem fair?

What conclusion can the reader draw about (character/event, etc) through evidence such as \_\_\_\_\_?

## **Support Questions/Responses**

Can you give us an example of...?

Where in the text . . . ?

What would be a good reason for...?

What is some evidence for . . . ?