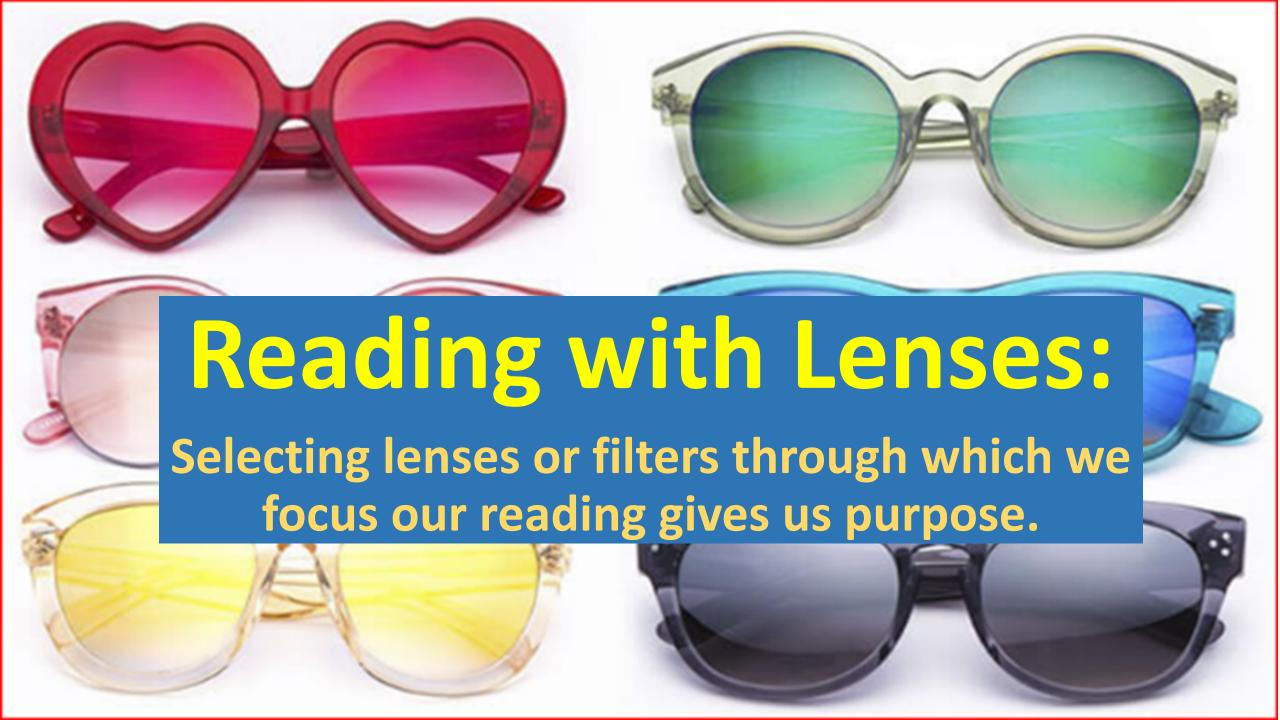
Stemology 101

The study of how STAAR stem questions can enhance the rigor of questioning in your classroom.

Jennifer Martin Greenville ISD



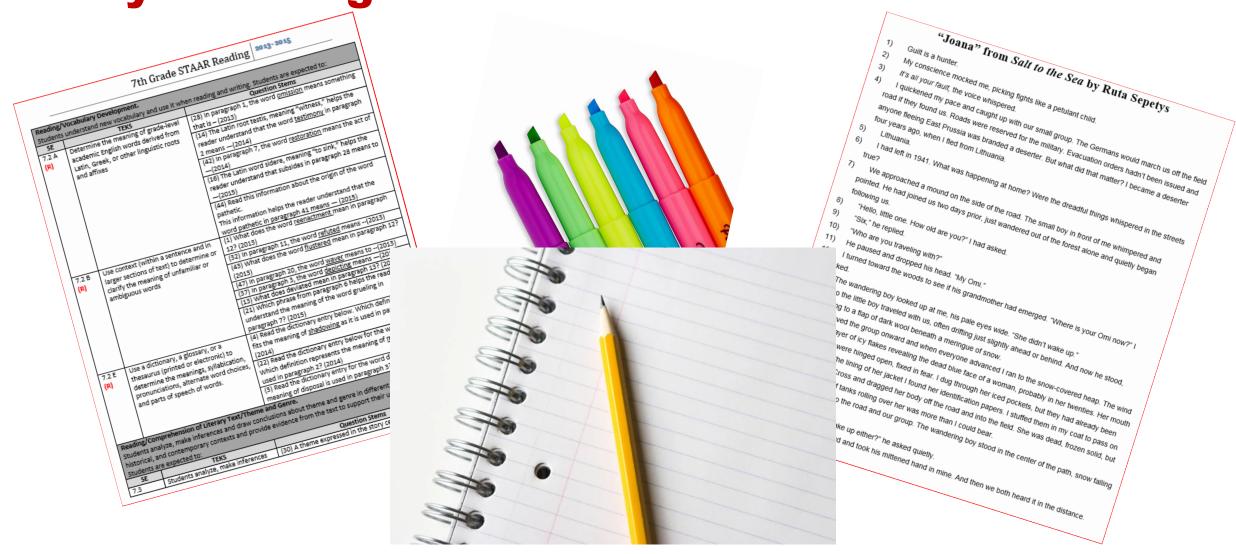


When we combine the Stemology process with reading lenses, great learning occurs!

Please join me as we branch out into an experience of growth...



You will need: copy of text, STAAR stem question bank, highlighters, and paper & pen for your thoughts.



1st Read: Read the selection aloud for the 1st time through the vocabulary lens.

*Note any words that you think a 7th grader would struggle with. Also, note multiple-meaning words.

"Joana" from Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

- Guilt is a hunter.
- My conscience mocked me, picking fights like a petulant child.
- It's all your fault, the voice whispered.
- I quickened my pace and caught up with our small group. The Germans would march us off the field road if they found us. Roads were reserved for the military. Evacuation orders hadn't been issued and anyone fleeing East Prussia was branded a deserter. But what did that matter? I became a deserter four years ago, when I fled from Lithuania.
- Lithuania.
- 6) I had left in 1941. What was happening at home? Were the dreadful things whispered in the streets true?
- We approached a mound on the side of the road. The small boy in front of me whimpered and pointed. He had joined us two days prior, just wandered out of the forest alone and quietly began following us.
- "Hello, little one. How old are you?" I had asked.
- "Six," he replied.
- 10) "Who are you traveling with?"
- He paused and dropped his head. "My Omi."
- I turned toward the woods to see if his grandmother had emerged. "Where is your Omi now?" I asked.
- The wandering boy looked up at me, his pale eyes wide. "She didn't wake up."
- 14) So, the little boy traveled with us, often drifting just slightly ahead or behind. And now he stood, pointing to a flap of dark wool beneath a meringue of snow.
- 5) I waved the group onward and when everyone advanced I ran to the snow-covered heap. The wind lifted a layer of icy flakes revealing the dead blue face of a woman, probably in her twenties. Her mouth and eyes were hinged open, fixed in fear. I dug through her iced pockets, but they had already been picked. In the lining of her jacket I found her identification papers. I stuffed them in my coat to pass on to the Red Cross and dragged her body off the road and into the field. She was dead, frozen solid, but the thought of tanks rolling over her was more than I could bear.
- 16) I ran back to the road and our group. The wandering boy stood in the center of the path, snow falling all around him.
- "She didn't wake up either?" he asked guietly.
- 8) I shook my head and took his mittened hand in mine. And then we both heard it in the distance.
- 19) Ben

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- "She didn't wake up either?" he asked quietly.
- I shook my head and took his mittened hand in mine. And then we both heard it in the distance.
- 19) Bang

2nd Read: Read through the excerpt again using the lens of characterization.

*Note and/or highlight any text evidence that develops the characters.

3rd Read: Read the selection for the 3rd time through the lens of sensory language.

*Consider imagery, figurative language (including metaphors, similes, and personification), and anything that appeals to the senses.

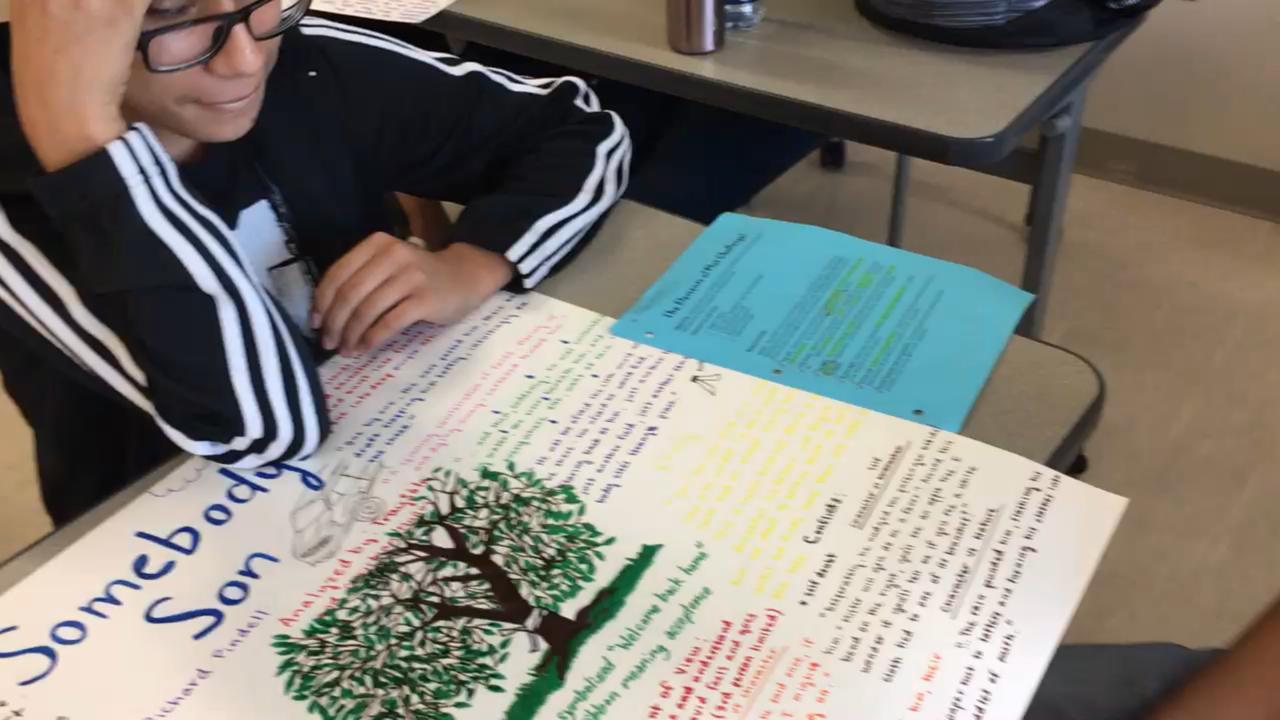
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How does this look in the classroom?

- Lessons on the specific skills must occur (plot, characterization, etc.)
- We began by creating a poster that reflected the skills they had learned and the evidence that they had gleaned from the text (students worked in pairs).
- Later, students used a smaller graphic organizer on their own.
- They now simply annotate the text.





Now that we have found the answers, let's create some questions!



Lens #1 Vocabulary (2A, 2B, 2E)

Grade 7 Reading Stem Questions--Fiction

Reading/Vocabulary Development.

Students understand new vocabulary and use it when reading and writing. Students are expected to:

SE TEKS Question Stems				
TEKS	Question Stems			
Determine the meaning of grade-level academic English words derived from Latin, Greek, or other linguistic roots and affixes	(28) In paragraph 1, the word omission means something that is – (2013) (14) The Latin root testis, meaning "witness," helps the reader understand that the word testimony in paragraph 2 means — (2014) (42) In paragraph 7, the word restoration means the act of —(2014) (16) The Latin word sidere, meaning "to sink," helps the reader understand that subsides in paragraph 28 means to —(2015) (44) Read this information about the origin of the word pathetic. This information helps the reader understand that the word pathetic in paragraph 41 means — (2015) (30) The Latin word ob, meaning "in the way," helps the reader understand that the word obstructs in paragraph 2 means — (2016) (47) What does the word forewarned mean in paragraph 4? (2016) (8) Read the information about the origin of the word replenish. This information helps the reader understand that			
	replenished in paragraph 2 means—(2017) (1) The word i <u>llustrious</u> in paragraph 2 means—(2018) (8) The Latin root vocare, meaning "to call," helps the reader understand that the word advocate in paragraph 3 means one who— (2018)			
Use context (within a sentence and in larger sections of text)	(1) What does the word reenactment mean in paragraph 12? (2013) (32) In paragraph 11, the word refuted means —(2013) (43) What does the word flustered mean in paragraph 12? (2013)			
meaning of unfamiliar or	(47) In paragraph 20, the word <u>waver</u> means to(2013)			
ambiguous words	(37) In paragraph 3, the word depicting means —(2014) (13) What does deviated mean in paragraph 13? (2015)			
	(21) Which phrase from paragraph 6 helps the reader understand the meaning of the word grueling in paragraph 7? (2015)			
	(1) Which words from paragraph 3 help the reader understand the meaning of the word <u>daunting</u> ? (2016)			
	(21) What does the phrase <u>resorted to</u> mean in paragraph 5? (2016)			
	(38) What does the word gusto mean in paragraph 2? (2017)			
Use a dictionary, a glossary, or a thesaurus (printed or electronic) to determine the meanings, syllabication, pronunciations, alternate word choices, and parts of speech of words.	(4) Read the dictionary entry below. Which definition best fits the meaning of shadowing as it is used in paragraph 7? (2014) (22) Read the dictionary entry below for the word mission. Which definition represents the meaning of mission as it is used in paragraph 2? (2014) (3) Read the dictionary entry for the word disposal. Which meaning of disposal is used in paragraph 3? (2015) (42) Read the dictionary entry below. Which definition best matches the way the word flow is used in line 14? (2016) (3) Read the dictionary entry below. Which definition most closely matches the way the word digest is used in paragraph 28? (2017) (12) Read the dictionary entry below. Which definition best fits how critical is used in paragraph 1? (2017) (36) Read this dictionary entry. Which definition best matches the way the word style is used in paragraph 3? (2018)			
	Determine the meaning of grade-level academic English words derived from Latin, Greek, or other linguistic roots and affixes Use context (within a sentence and in larger sections of text) to determine or clarify the meaning of unfamiliar or ambiguous words Use a dictionary, a glossary, or a thesaurus (printed or electronic) to determine the meanings, syllabication, pronunciations, alternate word choices, and parts of speech of			

Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Theme and Genre.

36	SE TEKS Question Stems	
7.3	Students analyze, make	(30) A theme expressed in the story centers on(2013)
Fig 19 D inferences and draw		(47) What lesson does the narrator learn while spending time with her grandmother? (2014)
(R)	and genre in different cultural, historical, and contemporary contexts	(41) Which sentence best states the main message of this story? (2015)
		(12) What is the primary theme of this story? (2016)
cor		(7) Which of these is an important idea expressed in the excerpt? (2017)
		(4) The primary theme of the story centers on the importance of— (2018)
	and provide evidence from the text to support their	(35) Which theme is explored in the poem? (2018)

Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Fiction.

SE	TEKS	Question Stems
7.6	Students understand,	(9) The details in paragraph 17 help the reader infer that —(2014)
Fig 19 D make inferences and draw conclusions about		(11) Which sentence foreshadows that Maniac will be successful in untying the knot? (2014)
	draw conclusions about	(12) The author uses short sentences in paragraph 21 to help create a feeling of —(2014)
	the structure and	(42) Which event from the story shows that Bragger's attitude about playing basketball is different from Kirby's? (20)
	elements of fiction and	(43) Read these sentences from the story.
	provide evidence from	Based on these sentences, the reader can infer that Kirby thinks he — (2015)
	text to support their	(46) The author's use of questions in paragraph 6 helps the reader understand — (2015)
	understanding	(50) Read this excerpt from the story.
	1	Kirby's thoughts in this excerpt reveal that he — (2015)

Lens #2

Characterization— Inferences

(6 figure 19D and 6B)

Reading/Vocabulary Development. Students understand new vocabulary and use it when reading and writing. Students are expected to: 7.2 Determine the meaning of (28) In paragraph 1, the word <u>omission</u> means something that is – (2013) grade-level academic English [14] The Latin root testis, meaning "witness," helps the reader understand that the word testimony in paragraph 2 means words derived from Latin. Greek, or other linguistic roots (42) In paragraph 7, the word restoration means the act of -(2014) and affixes (16) The Latin word sidere, meaning "to sink," helps the reader understand that subsides in paragraph 28 means to —(2015) (44) Read this information about the origin of the word pathetic. This information helps the reader understand that the word pathetic in paragraph 41 means — (2015) (30) The Latin word ob, meaning "in the way," helps the reader understand that the word obstructs in paragraph 2 means -(47) What does the word forewarned mean in paragraph 4? (2016) (8) Read the information about the origin of the word <u>replenish</u>. This information helps the reader understand that replenished in paragraph 2 means—(2017) (1) The word illustrious in paragraph 2 means—(2018) (8) The Latin root vocare, meaning "to call," helps the reader understand that the word advocate in paragraph 3 means one Use context (within a sentence (1) What does the word reenactment mean in paragraph 12? (2013) and in larger sections of text) (32) In paragraph 11, the word refuted means -- (2013) to determine or clarify the (43) What does the word flustered mean in paragraph 12? (2013 meaning of unfamiliar or (47) In paragraph 20, the word waver means to -- (2013) ambiguous words (37) In paragraph 3, the word depicting means —(2014) (13) What does deviated mean in paragraph 13? (2015) (21) Which phrase from paragraph 6 helps the reader understand the meaning of the word grueling in paragraph 7? (2015) (1) Which words from paragraph 3 help the reader understand the meaning of the word daunting? (2016) (21) What does the phrase resorted to mean in paragraph 5? (2016) (38) What does the word gusto mean in paragraph 2? (2017) 7.2 E Use a dictionary, a glossary, or (4) Read the dictionary entry below. Which definition best fits the meaning of shadowing as it is used in paragraph 7? (2014) a thesaurus (printed or (22) Read the dictionary entry below for the word mission electronic) to determine the Which definition represents the meaning of mission as it is used in paragraph 2? (2014) meanings, syllabication, 3) Read the dictionary entry for the word disposal. Which meaning of disposal is used in paragraph 3? (2015) pronunciations, alternate word (42) Read the dictionary entry below. Which definition best matches the way the word flow is used in line 14? (2016) choices, and parts of speech of 3) Read the dictionary entry below. Which definition most closely matches the way the word digest is used in paragraph 28? (12) Read the dictionary entry below. Which definition best fits how critical is used in paragraph 1? (2017) (36) Read this dictionary entry. Which definition best matches the way the word style is used in paragraph 3? (2018) Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about theme and genre in different cultural, historical, and contemporary contexts and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding. Students are expected to: SE TEKS Question Stems (30) A theme expressed in the story centers on --(2013) Students analyze, make inferences and draw Fig 19 D (47) What lesson does the narrator learn while spending time with her grandmother? (2014) conclusions about theme (41) Which sentence best states the main message of this story? (2015) and genre in different (12) What is the primary theme of this story? (2016) cultural historical and (7) Which of these is an important idea expressed in the excerpt? (2017) contemporary contexts (4) The primary theme of the story centers on the importance of— (2018) and provide evidence from (35) Which theme is explored in the poem? (2018) the text to support their Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Fiction. Students understand, make inferences and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of fiction and provide evidence from text to support their Students understand, (9) The details in paragraph 17 help the reader infer that -(2014) Fig 19 D make inferences and 11) Which sentence foreshadows that Maniac will be successful in untying the knot? (2014) draw conclusions about (12) The author uses short sentences in paragraph 21 to help create a feeling of —(2014) the structure and (42) Which event from the story shows that Bragger's attitude about playing basketball is different from Kirby's? 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Grade 7 Reading Stem Questions--Fiction

7.6 Fig 19 E (R)	Summarize, paraphrase, and synthesize texts in ways that maintain	(2014) Which of these is the best summarizes the excerpt? (2014) (10) Which phrase from paragraph 1 best demonstrates Alyssa's attitude about spending time at her grandparents' farm? (2018) (20) Which of these is the best summary of the story? (2013) (10) Which sentence best summarizes the excerpt? (2014)			
meaning and logical order within a text and across texts		(47) What is the best summary of the story? (2015) (13) What is the best summary of the story? (2016)			
7.6 A (R)	Explain the influence of the setting on plot development	of (27) How does the setting influence the plot of the story? (2013) (49) How does the setting contribute to Kirby's conflict in the story? (2015) (6) The setting is important to the plot because it is where the narrator—(2017) (6) How does the story's cetting influence its allow? (2018)			
7.6 B (R)	Analyze the development of the plot through the internal and external responses of the characters, including their motivations and conflicts	(23) Why is the letter important to this story? (2013)			
(5)	of point of view, including first-person, third-person omniscient, and third-person limited	(14) Using the first-person point of view allows the author to – (2016)			
Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Sensory Language. Students understand, make inferences and draw conclusions about how an author's sensory language creates imagery in literary text and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to:					
to support th SE	heir understanding. Students TEKS	are expected to: Question Stems			
to support th SE 7.8	heir understanding. Students TEKS Students understand,	are expected to: Question Stems (12) Read this sentence from paragraph 1. In this sentence the author(2013)			
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(10) Which sentence shows that the narrator is aware of the feelings of others? (2016)

Lens #3 Sensory Language (8 Figure 19D and 8A)

		(10) Which sentence shows that the narrator is aware of the feelings of others? (2016)		
		(11) Why doesn't the narrator watch the other turtles hatch at the end of the story? (2016)		
		(2) Which phrase from paragraph 1 best demonstrates Alyssa's attitude about spending time at her grandparents' farm? [2018]		
7.6	Summarize, paraphrase,	(29) Which of these is the best summary of the story? (2013)		
Fig 19 E and synthesize texts in ways that maintain meaning and logical order within a text and		(10) Which sentence best summarizes the excerpt? (2014)		
		(47) What is the best summary of the story? (2015)		
		(13) What is the best summary of the story? (2016)		
		(13) What is the dest summary of the story: (2010)		
	across texts			
7.6 A Explain the influence of (R) the setting on plot development		(27) How does the setting influence the plot of the story? (2013)		
		(49) How does the setting contribute to Kirby's conflict in the story? (2015)		
	development	(6) The setting is important to the plot because it is where the narrator—(2017) (6) How does the story's setting influence its plot? (2018)		
7.6 B	Analyze the	(23) Why is the letter important to this story? (2013)		
(R)	development of the plot	(24) Pavel's interaction with Miklos contributes to the plot by(2013)		
	through the internal and	(25) Which of these best describes Pavel's internal conflict in the story? (2013)		
	external responses of the	(13) In paragraph 3, the descriptions of Maniar's expression suggest that the spectators —(2014)		
	characters, including their motivations and	(15) What is the significance of the crowd returning at lunchtime to watch Maniac? (2014)		
	conflicts	(16) Which sentence best shows that Maniac approaches the challenge of the knot with thoughtfulness? (2014)		
	COMMICES	(45) The description of Coach Armstrong emphasizes Kirby's — (2015)		
		(9) How does the setting advance the plot of the story? (2016)		
		(15) Why are the woman's comments about the nest in paragraphs 6 through 10 important to the story? (2016)		
		(17) The narrator's observations in paragraph 2 are important to the story because they – (2016)		
		(1) What is the narrator's primary motivation for continuing to visit Jim? (2017)		
		(2) Why is Jim's demonstration with the jawbreaker important to the plot? (2017)		
		(7) At the end of the story, Alyssa most likely feels—(2018)		
7.6 C	Analyze different forms	(26) The point of view from which the story is told gives the reader insight into(2013)		
(S)	of point of view,	(14) Using the first-person point of view allows the author to – (2016)		
l				
	including first-person,			
	third person empissions			
Reading/Co	third person empiricant	t/Sensory Language.		
	third person empissions mprehension of Literary Tex	t/Sensory Language. Indicate the standard of		
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(41) Read these lines form the poem. The imagery in these lines contributes to a sense of—(2016)
 (4) Read this sentence from paragraph 4. The sensory language in this sentence highlights the narrator's (2017)

(5) Read paragraph 23 from the story. The author includes the figurative language in this sentence to show that Alyssa-

(40) Why does the playwright include the sensory language in paragraph 43? (2017)



With a partner, create questions for the following lenses:

- Vocabulary
- · Characterization
- ·Sensory Language





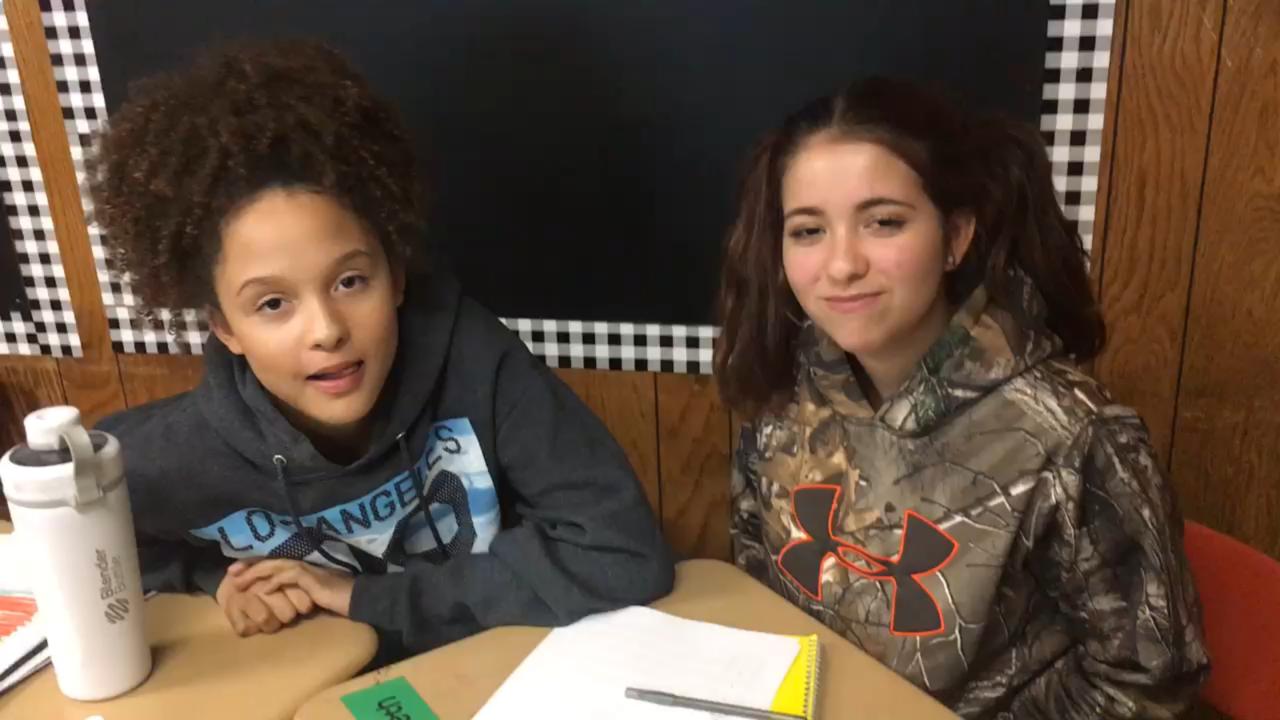
What if we could teach our students to write their own STAAR-level questions in response to their reading?

Academic conversations are heavenly!!!!

Let your students build their assessments! I always give them credit for their work!

- 2 What does the word prevails mean as it is being used in paragraph 8? (Jared)
 - F victorious
 - G amazing
 - H failure
 - J excitement
- 3 Which provides evidence that David may have regrets? (Christian)
 - A David's flashback in paragraphs 26-28
 - B when he writes the letter to his mother
 - C the white cloths tied to each branch of the tree
 - D David asking to drop off the letter to a mailbox
- 4 Why does the author use personification in this quotation: (Miranda and Mackenzie) A series of headlights made a domino of the highway.
 - F The writer wants the reader to experience an optical illusion.
 - G To confuse the reader as he/she tries to understand the setting
 - H To give the reader a visual of nonstop car headlights coming toward the character
 - J The writer wants the reader to see hitchhiking as a game of dominoes.
- 5 After reading paragraph 55, the reader can tell that David feels-- (Maci and Lizzi)
 - A ashamed of his life choices
 - B terrible anger towards his parents
 - C uncontainable excitement
 - D extreme anxiety about going home

- 17 The main conflict that David wrestles with is-- (Miranda and Mackenzie)
 - A finding nice folks who will give him safe rides home
 - B getting enough money together for a train ticket
 - C whether or not to write a letter home to his mother.
 - D wondering whether his father will allow him to come home
- 18 The tone of the story becomes increasingly-- (Christian)
 - F intense
 - G balanced
 - H questioning
 - J humorous
- 19 Why does the author use personification in paragraph 44? (Elena)
 - A to show his feelings toward lonely journey home and how hopeful he felt
 - B to tell the reader how long the trip would take
 - C to illustrate how treacherous traveling on the roads and trains could be
 - D to help the reader see how lucky David had been along his trip home
- 20 From paragraphs 11-25, the dialogue can be best described as... (Jenny and Ignacio)
 - F friendly, understanding, emotional
 - G comical, sarcastic, relaxed
 - H easy-going and disinterested
 - J angry, confused, threatening





#1 Responses:

- Reading Stem Questions Work!!!!
- Ba-Da-Bing/Pitchfork Sentences!!!



English I Reflection Survey

1. What have you done in your English class this year that has specifically helped you become more successful with reading and writing?

2.	Complete this sentence:	In my English class,	I feel that my	strongest skill
	is			

3. In which English Language Arts & Reading areas do you feel that you need more support?

4. What suggestions do you have to make your English class more engaging and successful?

Tell about an English lesson that you found interesting and/or fun.

Jennifer Martin 903-217-2613

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