

higher-level thinking

Questions

Intermediate Literature

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Table of Contents



Introduction 2

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|
| 1 | Hating Alison Ashley 27 | 9 | Seven Little Australians 91 |
| 2 | The Cay 35 | 10 | Lon Po Po..... 99 |
| 3 | Charlie and the Chocolate Factory 43 | 11 | The Magic Pudding... 107 |
| 4 | Charlotte's Web..... 51 | 12 | Lemony Snicket: The Bad Beginning... 115 |
| 5 | Looking for Alibrandi 59 | 13 | Mouse and the Motorcycle 123 |
| 6 | Tomorrow, When the War Began 67 | 14 | Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. 131 |
| 7 | James and the Giant Peach 75 | 15 | Coraline 139 |
| 8 | Animal Farm 83 | 16 | Sylvester the Magic Pebble 147 |

Introduction

In your hands you hold a powerful book. It is a member of a series of transformative activity books. Between the covers, you will find questions, questions and more questions! But these are no ordinary questions. These are the important kind—higher-level thinking questions—the kind that stretch your students’ minds; the kind that release your students’ natural curiosity about the world; the kind that rack your students’ brains; the kind that instil in your students a sense of wonderment about your curriculum.

But we are getting a bit ahead of ourselves. Let’s start from the beginning. Since this is a book of questions, it seems only appropriate for this introduction to pose a few questions—about the book and its underlying educational philosophy. So Mr Kipling’s Six Honest Serving Men, if you will, please lead the way:



What?
What are
higher-level

thinking questions?

This is a loaded question (as should be all good questions). Using our analytic thinking skills, let’s break this question down into two smaller questions: 1) What is higher-level thinking? and 2) What are questions? When we understand the types of thinking skills and the types of questions, we can combine the best of both worlds, crafting beautiful questions to generate the range of higher-level thinking in our students!

Types of Thinking

There are many different types of thinking. Some types of thinking include:

- applying
- associating
- comparing
- contrasting
- defining
- elaborating
- empathising
- experimenting
- generalising
- investigating
- making analogies
- planning
- prioritising
- recalling
- reflecting
- reversing
- sequencing
- summarising
- synthesising
- thinking about thinking (metacognition)
- assessing
- augmenting
- connecting
- decision-making
- drawing conclusions
- eliminating
- evaluating
- explaining
- inferring consequences
- inventing
- memorising
- predicting
- problem-solving
- reducing
- relating
- role-taking
- substituting
- symbolising
- understanding

This is quite a formidable list. It’s nowhere near complete. Thinking is a big, multifaceted phenomenon. Perhaps the most widely recognised system for classifying thinking and classroom questions is Benjamin Bloom’s Taxonomy of Thinking Skills. Bloom’s Taxonomy classifies thinking skills into six hierarchical levels. It begins with the lower levels of thinking skills and moves up to higher-level thinking skills:

1) Knowledge, 2) Comprehension, 3) Application, 4) Analysis, 5) Synthesis, 6) Evaluation. See Bloom’s Taxonomy on the following page.

The taxonomy was revised in 2001 by Lorin W. Anderson and David R. Krathwohl to incorporate new research into the framework.

pair activity #2

Pair Discussion

Partners take turns asking the question. The pair then discusses the answer together. Unlike RallyRobin, students discuss the answer. Both students contribute to answering and to discussing each other's ideas.



pair activity #3

Question-Write-Share-Discuss

One partner reads the Question Card out loud to their teammate. Both students write down their ideas. Partners take turns sharing what they wrote. Partners discuss how their ideas are similar and different.





Hating Alison Ashley

Question Starters

Use the question starters below to create complete questions.
Send your questions to a partner or to another team to answer.

1. If you were Erica

2. What might Alison do if

3. What is your favourite

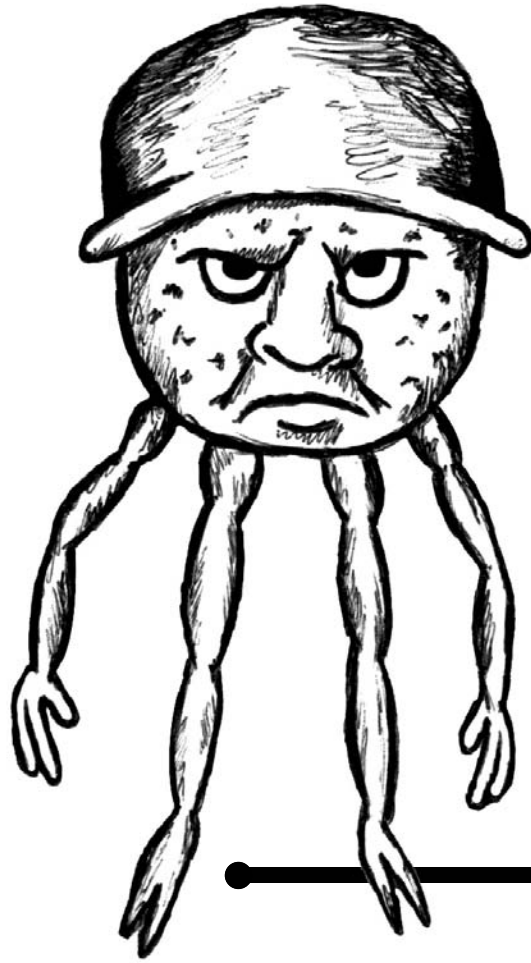
4. What would happen if

5. How would you decide

6. What is the relationship

7. What problem

8. What changes



The Magic Pudding

higher-level thinking questions



The Magic Pudding

Question Cards

The Magic Pudding

1 The pudding thieves have as much right to the pudding as Bill and Sam do, as they stole it in the first place. Do you agree? Why or why not?



The Magic Pudding

2 Sam Sawnoff and Bill Barnacle lied about what they did to Curry and Rice to get the pudding. Do you agree? Why or why not?



The Magic Pudding

3 What do you think Bunyip Bluegum will list as the highlights of his time with the others? Why?



The Magic Pudding

4 If the pudding was not a pudding, but some other food that never ran out, what would you like it to be? Why?

