



How to Ask a Great Question

"Questions are the creative acts of intelligence." ~ [Dr. Frank Kingdon](#)

"Judge a man by his questions rather than his answers." ~ [Voltaire](#)

As you read, try to put your confusion and desire for explanation into the form of authentic questions. An authentic question is question that has no easy answer; it is a question that sparks lively discussion and debate.

Examples: (When you write these questions, make them specific—address specific characters and passages directly)



What does this passage reveal about this character?

What motivates this person to behave this way?

Why do you think this character says this about that character?

Why does this character react this way? Would you have reacted the same way?

What does the author want us to think about this character?

What might this object symbolize? Why do you think the author brings it up several times? What does this object have to do with this character?

Why do you think the author compares _____ to _____? What is significant about this metaphor?

Why is the author's unusual style or grammar significant in this passage?

Through these descriptions, what larger statement is the author making about society? Human nature?

What are we supposed to learn from...?

What would have happened if....?