

## **Levels of Comprehension**

Adapted from *Reading Power in the Content Areas*

*The purpose of developing your own questions is so you become a self-directed learner.*

*The better questions you ask, the better learner you become, and in turn, you help to create a better learning environment in the classroom.*

### **Level 1: Literal Level: (Study guide questions)**

The primary, direct meaning of the word, idea or sentence explicitly stated in the context. In other words, you can easily go to the text to find the answer to your question.

#### **Examples:**

Who...

When...

What...

### **Level II: Interpretive Level:**

The reader uses information given by the literal meaning and infers meanings not clearly stated. Interpreting includes literal comprehension but goes beyond this level by involving such skills as:

- Supplying or anticipating a meaning not stated
- Drawing inferences
- Making generalizations
- Reasoning cause and effect
- Speculating on what happened between events
- Anticipating on what will happen next
- Noting the significance of a statement, passage or selection

#### **Examples:**

What conclusion...?

Find the evidence...

### **Level III: Critical**

This thinking skill is the top of the hierarchy of comprehension skills. This kind of reading involves both literal comprehension and interpretation skills but goes furthering that the reader evaluates and passes personal judgments on the quality, value, accuracy, and truthfulness of what has been read. In critical reading the student leaves the text itself and:

- Suggests another solution to a problem
- Senses new insights
- Applies an idea given in the text to another situation in his own life
- Extends information

#### **Examples:**

Give your opinion...

Defend your position...

**Overall:** *Think of questions you would ask as though you were teaching the novel. Make yourself and your classmates better learners.*

Clarification: I don't understand what happens here...

Reasoning: I don't understand why this character does this...

Deeper meaning: Explain the importance of?