

Sample Questions for Basic Self-Selected - Independent Reading Conference

1. **First ask the student to read aloud a page or two from his chosen book to make sure that the child is reading “on level.”**
2. **Ask a general question or two.**
 - a. Why did you choose this book?
 - b. Have you read any other book by this author? Which one?
 - c. Is your book a fiction (made-up) book or nonfiction (informational) book? How can you tell?
 - d. What do you think will happen next? Why do you say that?
 - e. How did the author make the facts interesting in this book? Show me an example.
3. **Encourage the student to look at reading from a writer’s point of view.**
 - a. How did the author let you know that the main character was scared?
 - b. Why was the beach a good setting for the story?
 - c. If you had written this story, would have chosen the same setting? Why or why not?
 - d. Did you learn anything from this book that you can use in your own writing? If so, what?
4. **Ask a question on a particular comprehension skill from Guided Reading.**
 - a. Who are the characters?
 - b. What is the setting?
 - c. Was there a problem and did it get solved?
 - d. Can you tell me what happened at the beginning, middle, and end of your story?
 - e. What new facts did you learn from this book?
 - f. This book has wonderful pictures of real places. Tell me about the pictures and what you learned from the pictures.
 - g. Can you explain this chart about the parts of the animal’s body to me?
 - h. Can you read the map and explain where he traveled?
5. **Use open-ended questions to help form opinions and tell about their reading preferences.**
 - a. Do you like this book? Why or why not?
 - b. What did you like about this book?
 - c. What didn’t you like about this book?
 - d. What was your favorite part?
 - e. Who was your favorite character? Why?
 - f. Did the book have any pictures you really liked? Which one (s)?
 - g. What was the most interesting thing you learned in this book?
 - h. What was the funniest (saddest, most surprising, silliest, strangest) part of the this book?

Source: Cunningham, P. M., Hall, P. H., & Sigmon, C. M. (1999). *The Teacher’s Guide to the Four Blocks: A Multimethod, Multilevel Framework for Grades 1-3*. Greensboro, NC: Carson-Dellosa Publishing.