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?