

Develop Reading Skills- Responding to Questions

Questions about Audience

Authors are known to almost always write with an audience in mind
(People who they would like to read the book)

It is important to know who the intended audience is. This is so because it helps you to make informed comments on writers' techniques and evaluate how effective they are if you are clear about the intended readership the author has in mind.

Look at the topic/ story.
Consider who might be interested in such text.

Are there technical terms?
Is the writing formal or informal?

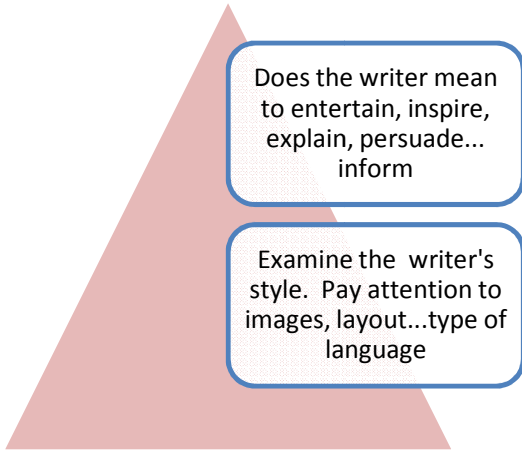
Examine the content of the text and the language used.

Look at the presentation and the graphics used, if any. Consider the size of the font.

Question on Purpose

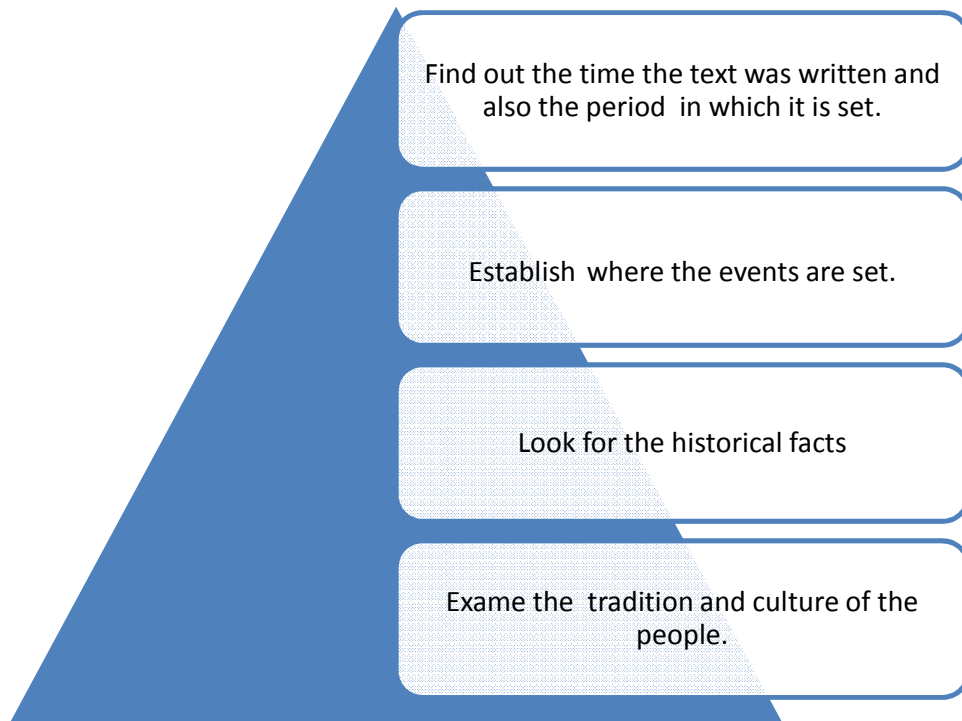
Authors are frequently asked about their reason for writing a particular text. While from the offset, this could seem just a casual question, it most certainly is not. The purpose of the text determines its content and style in which it is written.

Writers create texts for different reasons. You would need to understand what the writer is hoping to achieve. Again, the clues are within the text.



About Context

Each writer has an individual approach to writing. Adding to this sense of difference is the fact that authors are influenced by their historical and social backgrounds. It is therefore always important to understand the setting of a text and the situations in which words and expressions are used. Such knowledge will go a long way in helping you to appreciate what you read.



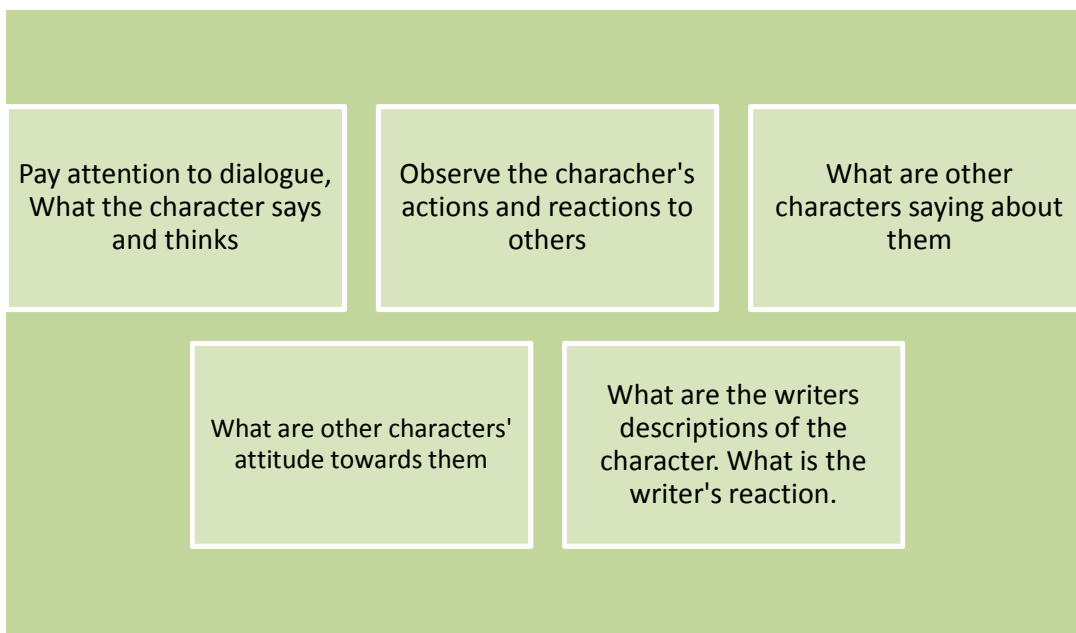
About Textual Analysis

When identifying the writer's techniques you need to pay attention to word choices, uses of imageries ... alliteration, repetition. Writers use structure to engage the readers. For example, the writer might choose to use flashbacks, linear or non-linear approach, short sharp words, short snappy sentences, punctuation, linking words, hard or soft consonants, sentences that have words with a lot of long or short vowel- anything the writer uses to influence your mood.

Pay careful attention to where the writer is taking you and the devices they use to do so.

About Character

Writers know the importance of characterisation. They use a range of devices to give the reader a sense of the nature of each character. When asked to write about a character, you are being asked to give your opinion of the named character. However, your opinion must always be influenced by the text. Therefore, you need to justify the reasons for your opinion using evidence from the text.

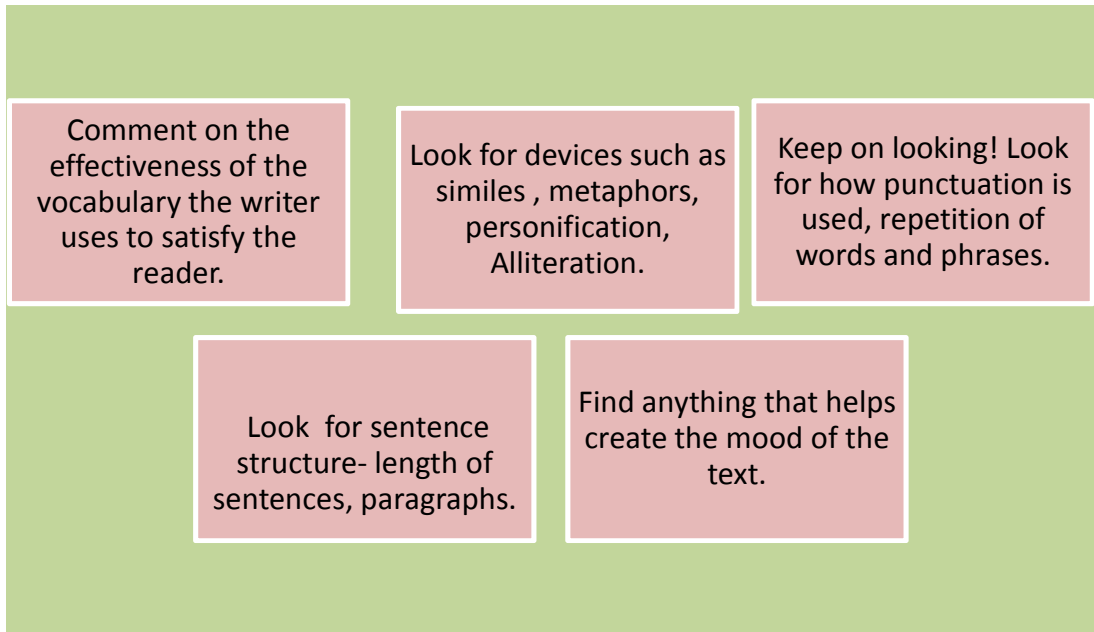


Questions about the 'Writer's Perspective'

Questions that focus on the writer's perspective are simply asking you to write about how the Author feels about the topic. Some writers narrate the story from their standpoint or from the viewpoints of characters in the story. The whole aim is to make the voice of the writer heard and be distinct from other writers.

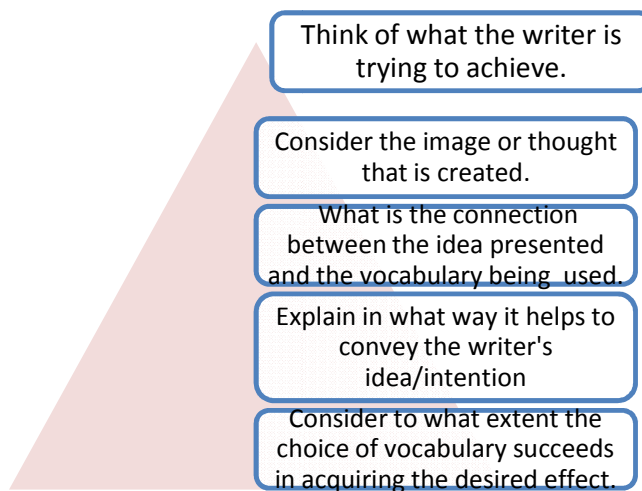
Language and structure

The creative use of Language is vital to the success of the writer. You must be clear about how the writer uses language to convey ideas.



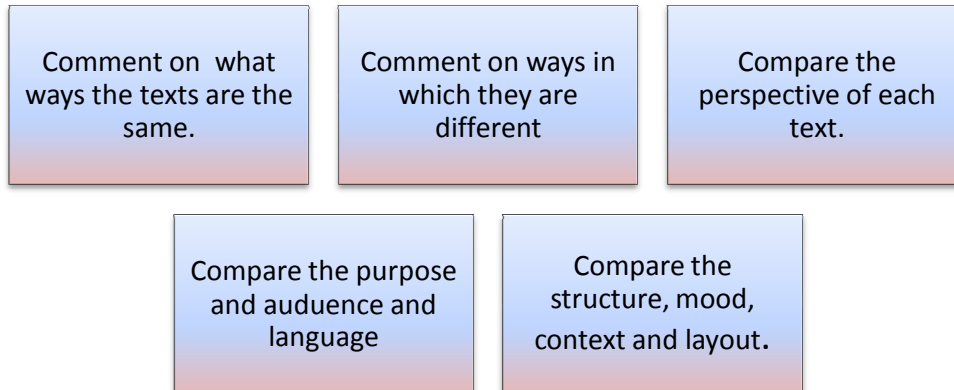
About Word Choices

The words that writers use are carefully chosen. You will encounter questions about the effectiveness of the writer's choice of a word. Why was a specific word or phrase used? What idea is the writer trying to create?



Comparing Texts and Making a Critical Analysis

These types of questions help you to appreciate the different approaches and perspectives that individual writers take when creating text.



Questions about Themes

A question that asks about the theme or themes of a text is simple asking, how does the text make you feel. As you read a text you might feel anger, fear, and sense of injustice... love

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Pay attention to the conflict and what is happening.

Look at characters personalities - actions and attitudes.

Observe the characters' thoughts about what is happening. How do they view events.

Think about the language used.

Observe the dialogue used