

Assessing Comprehension using Reading Stances

STANCES	Fiction	Non-Fiction
Literal	- What is this [novel, film, poem,] about? - What is the main topic or "gist"? - Where is the setting? ... the time period? - When did this piece take place? - Who are the major and minor characters? - What is the situation or problem? - What are the most important events?	- What is the topic or the "gist" of the text this [book, article, essay, blog, etc.]? - What are the keys facts? - What is the most important information conveyed? - What did you learn from this?
Interpretive	- What is the meaning of _____? - What is the implicit theme or message? - What is the significance of the title? - How would you describe the mood? - What traits do the character(s) exhibit? - What does [figurative language] mean?	- What is the meaning of _____? - What conclusions do you draw from this? - What is the [attitude, philosophy, politics, etc.] of the author(s)? - How does this piece compare to [one or more related works]?
Personal	- How is this like something from your life? - How do you relate to this theme? - What did this make you think or feel? - What would you have done if you were the character? - What questions would you like to ask the author/character(s)?	- What did this make you think? - Do you agree with the author? - Are you convinced? ...persuaded? - Did you change your mind? - What additional information is needed? - What questions would you like to ask the author(s)?
Critical	- What are the greatest strengths of this piece? ...greatest weakness(es)? Imagine you are a literary critic. - How effectively did the author convey the theme? ...describe the setting? ...develop the characters? ...establish the mood? ...unfold the plot and ...build to a climax? ... use imagery and figurative language? - Would you recommend this to others?	- How clear was this piece? ...accurate? ...complete? ...unbiased? - How well does the organizational structure work? - What are the greatest strengths of this piece? ... the greatest weakness(es)? - How effectively did the author achieve his or her purpose; e.g., to inform?... to persuade?