



## Depth and Complexity School and Home Connection: Questions Parents Can Ask at Home

### Big Idea



- What's the main lesson or biggest takeaway you learned in school today?
- Tell me about a GIST statement when you read and how does it help you understand what you just read?
- What animal best represents how you felt during the busiest part of your day?
- If you had to teach one big lesson from today to a first grader, what would the main idea be?
- If you could create a one-sentence summary (the Big Idea) for your entire day, what would it be?

### Details



- What are three specific facts or characteristics you remember about the topic?
- Tell me three specific facts or characteristics you remember about the lesson.
- What are some details that happened today that you will never forget about?
- What are some details that happened today that made you smile?
- What are some details about any new friends you have made?
- Are there any details about what our family did last weekend that you shared with your class/friends?

### Unanswered Questions



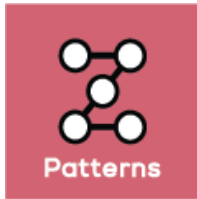
- What is still confusing or unknown about the topic you learned today?
- What do you predict will happen next or what is the missing piece of information?
- What are some things you are curious about based on what you learned in STEAM today?
- What is something that you are still thinking about from school today?

### Origin



- How did this begin or what was the cause of this event?
- Where did the idea or cause for your class project come from?
- Where did the idea for this come from?
- What was the cause of the assembly that happened today at school?

## Patterns



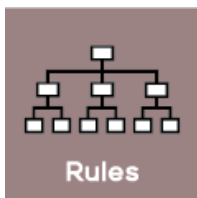
- Did you see anything that repeated in the story/activity?
- Did you notice anything that repeated or was a sequence of events today?
- In math, how did you look at patterns?
- Are there certain times of the day that you are really focused and enjoying the learning, and what connection do those times have with one another?

## Trends



- What factors (like the weather, a feeling, or someone's decision) influenced how your day went?
- Did a mood or feeling seem to be "catching" in the classroom today (like excitement, tiredness, or frustration)? What do you think caused that trend?
- Was there a trend in the kinds of questions students asked the teacher today (e.g., lots of questions about one specific part of the project)? What does that tell you about the lesson?
- What factors caused the trend of people being quiet/loud during specific times of the day (like morning work versus afternoon recess)?
- Did you see a trend in your own decision-making today? (For example, did you tend to choose hard work over fun, or working alone over being with friends?) What was the cause?
- What trends do you see in where people sit, and what do you think influences those seating choices? (Is it about proximity, noise, or friendship?)

## Rules



- What were the rules of the game you played at recess today?
- What were the rules of the game you played in PE?
- What rules in school help you be successful with learning?
- What is a rule your teacher has that you think is most important for the class to follow? What would happen if that rule didn't exist?
- What are the unspoken rules or customs that you and your friends follow during recess or lunch? (e.g., waiting in line, who gets to go first)
- If you could add a rule to the classroom/school, what would it be and why? How would that look in other classrooms?
- What is the most important lesson or rule for life that you are taking away from your day?

## Ethics



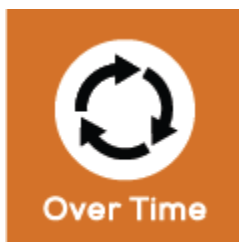
- Was there a time today when someone had to make a moral choice? Was it right or wrong?
- What are the different perspectives on whether that was a good or bad choice?
- Was there a time when you saw someone follow a rule, even when it was hard?
- Why was it the right thing to do?

## Language of the Discipline



- What new words did you learn today?
- What new words did you learn in math/reading/science/art?
- What symbols did you learn or use today (like  $>$ ,  $<$ ,  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $x$ ,  $\%$ ,  $\$$ ) and what specific idea does each one communicate?
- What are the specific words an artist uses to describe colors or lines that are different from the words we use for clothes or toys?
- What kind of charts, maps, or graphs did you read or create today? What is the language of those visual items trying to communicate?

## Over Time



- How did your understanding of [topic] change from the beginning of the lesson/unit to the end?
- What did we know about this before, and what do we know now?
- What was the time of day when you felt the most focused? How did that change in other classrooms?
- What is something you were not allowed to do in Kindergarten that you are allowed to do now? How have the rules changed over time?
- How did your feelings about a difficult assignment change over the time you spent working on it?
- How has your favorite spot to play at recess changed over time since the start of the school year? What factors influenced that shift?
- What skill that seemed really hard for you last month (like tying your shoes or reading a specific kind of word) is easy for you now?

## Multiple Perspectives



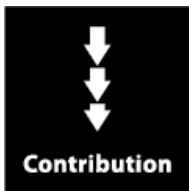
- How would someone else view this situation (e.g., a sibling, a teacher, or a character in the story)?
- How would your teacher or a classmate describe the same activity you did today?
- If a new student started today, what might they have thought was different/special about your school?
- If you could re-design one area of your classroom to make learning better, what would you change?

## Across Disciplines



- What did you learn in science today that connects to what you learned in art (or another subject)?
- In what way is writing a rough draft similar to the process of sketching out an idea before starting a painting?
- What skill did you use today to solve a problem in Math that you also used when you were trying to fix a problem at recess?
- You had to be very precise in Science today. Where else did you need to be precise, and what was the difference in how you did it?
- How did you use your listening skills in Reading today, and how are those the same or different from the way you listen when we are building something together?

## Contribution



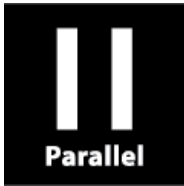
- What were the lasting effects or results of that person's actions/that event?
- What details or factors had to come together perfectly for the fun activity to happen?
- What was your contribution to the group activity, and how did it help the final product?
- What do you think is the product or result of your hard work on the project today that will still matter tomorrow?
- What contribution did your good listening make to the success of the class discussion?

## Convergence



- What events came together at the same time to cause this?
- What details from your notes, the textbook, and the teacher's voice all had to converge for you to feel confident about the quiz?
- What events (like a character's choice, a setting detail, and an early event) all merged at the end of the story to create the conclusion?
- What three things had to happen at the same time for you to finish your work exactly when the bell rang?
- What circumstances (e.g., being in a certain place, feeling a certain way, and someone saying a certain thing) merged to create a moment of challenge today?

## Parallel



- How is this similar to something else we know?
- What is similar between the book you read today and a movie we watched this weekend?
- What is the same about how you handle a challenge in Math class and how you handle a challenge in your favorite sport/game?
- In what ways is the main problem in the book you read today parallel to a small disagreement you had with a friend?

## Paradox



- How can two things seem to be opposites but exist simultaneously in this situation? (Example: Can you be brave but afraid at the same time and how/why?)
- What was something today that seemed to be a contradiction or two opposites at the same time?
- What did you learn in Science today that is true, but seems to be the opposite of what you see in real life? (e.g., how the Earth is round, but the ground looks flat).
- What is a fact you learned or something you experienced this week that seems to be a bad idea, but actually led to a good result?
- What did someone do today that seemed unkind on the surface, but when you thought about it, was actually trying to be helpful?
- When you were playing a challenging game, how could you feel frustrated and happy at the same time?