

# Preparation

Print your desired version or pages to your connected printer. Make sure you do not select "Two-sided" printing. Once printed, laminate each sheet to allow for repeated use. Once laminated, cut out each square (hint: cut in a cross on a paper cutter for fast and even cutting!).

## Alternative Version

There is an additional version of these questions, formatted in small boxes (at the end of this document). These are sized to fit onto Jenga pieces. To play this popular review game, simply print and cut out each rectangle. Then tape or glue each question onto a Jenga block. Students can play Jenga as they normal would, but when drawing a block they must answer the discussion question before placing it again.

## Suggested uses for these discussion questions

These discussion questions align with the updated AP Lit course and exam description, effective in 2019. The course is broken into six **Enduring Understandings**, plus required **Skills** needed for success on the exam. These questions are based on the Enduring Understandings and corresponding skills, but are broad enough to fit the discussion of any short story, play, novel, or poem. You can use these questions to:

- Facilitate a Socratic Seminar. Assign these questions out after completing a text and allow students to form responses based on choice.
- Foster in-class in-class, whole group, or online discussion.
- Create on-demand essay questions or analytical test or quiz questions.
- Form bell-ringers or exit slips for regular class use.

I'd love to see and hear about how you use these discussion questions in your classroom, especially which with which title they are paired! Please send me an email at [aplitandmore@gmail.com](mailto:aplitandmore@gmail.com), or post to Instagram and tag @aplitandmore so I can see your lessons!

## *Questions for Literature*

### **CHR 1.A**

How does a particular character's description, dialogue, or behavior reveal a character's perspective?

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## *Questions for Literature*

### **CHR 1.A**

How does a particular character's dialogue or behavior reveal a character's motives?

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## *Questions for Literature*

### **CHR 1.A**

What aspects of a character's background influence how he or she perceives the world?

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## *Questions for Literature*

### **CHR 1.B**

Identify a dynamic character. What major character traits change throughout the story?

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*Questions for Literature*  
**CHR 1.B**

Identify a moment of epiphany for a character.

How does that epiphany change that character?

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**CHR 1.B**

Identify a minor, static character. What is the effect of having this character remain unchanged?

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**CHR 1.C**

What major values are contrasted between the protagonist and antagonist?

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**CHR 1.C**

Identify a foil to the main character. What surface similarities do they share and what major difference is there?

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**CHR 1.D**

Describe how a character's complexity or nuance affects his or her relationships with other characters.

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**CHR 1.D**

Explain how a character's inclusion or exclusion of a group affects his or her attitude towards the world.

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**CHR 1.E**

How does a character's speech reveal complexities in his or her character?

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**CHR 1.E**

How do a character's actions or choices reveal complexities in his or her character?

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**CHR 1.E**

Identify a time when a character's actions are inconsistent with his or her personality. What is the effect of this inconsistency?

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*Questions for Literature*  
**SET 2.A**

What historical, social, or cultural backgrounds are included or alluded to in the setting?

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**SET 2.B**

What mood or atmosphere is established by the story's setting?

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**SET 2.B**

How does a change or shift in setting connect with another kind of shift, such as conflict, tone, or literal movement?

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**SET 2.C**

How does the protagonist respond to his or her environment? How does this build his or her characterization?

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**SET 2.C**

What is the protagonist's role in his or her society? To what degree is he or she accepted by society?

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*Questions for Literature*  
**SET 2.C**

How would you describe the relationship between a character and his or her setting?

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*Questions for Literature*  
**STR 3.A**

Identify a structural interruption in the story (foreshadowing, in medias res, flashbacks, etc.). How does this interruption enhance the plot?

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## Questions for Literature

### STR 3.A

What pacing is employed in this story (does it move in real time or are there increases or decreases in tempo)?

How does this narrative pacing effect the story?

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## Questions for Literature

### STR 3.B

Identify a break in narrative sequence or plot order. What is the relationship between this narrative break and the text as a whole?

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## Questions for Literature

### STR 3.C

Consider the text's structural arrangement as a whole (pacing, chronology, divisions, shifts, etc.). What is the function or effect of this structure?

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## Questions for Literature

### STR 3.D

Identify a moment of shift, contrast, or juxtaposition. How does this highlight character traits in the protagonist or antagonist?

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**STR 3.D**

How does a moment of irony enhance the plot for the reader?

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**STR 3.D**

How does a plot's paradox reveal a hidden or unexpected idea in the text?

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*Questions for Literature*

**STR 3.E**

Explain how a series of events introduce the central conflict of the text. How does each event build on that conflict?

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*Questions for Literature*

**STR 3.E**

Explain how the author uses specific plot events to establish suspense.

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*Questions for Literature*

**STR 3.E**

Identify how a single moment in the text contributes to the overall meaning or significance of the work as a whole?

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*Questions for Literature*

**STR 3.F**

Identify a conflict from the plot that arises from competing values between the protagonist and someone or something else.

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*Questions for Literature*

**STR 3.F**

How does the plot's resolution present a moment of catharsis for the reader?

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*Questions for Literature*

**STR 3.F**

How does a conflict contribute to a broader or more significant meaning of the work as a whole?

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## *Questions for Literature*

### **NAR 4.A**

Identify and describe the narrator of the text. How would you describe his or her narrative perspective?

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### **NAR 4.B**

Identify the point of view used in the text. Why would the author employ this point of view?

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### **NAR 4.C**

The author uses subtle devices such as specific diction, syntax, or imagery to reveal the narrative perspective. Provide an example of this.

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## *Questions for Literature*

### **NAR 4.C**

Provide an example of the narration revealing a personal bias, motivation, or deeper understanding.

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*Questions for Literature*

**NAR 4.C**

How would you describe the narrator's tone towards various events in the text?

*Questions for Literature*

**NAR 4.D**

To what degree is this narrator reliable? What details support this level of reliability?

Discussion Questions for Literature

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>SET 2.C</b> – How would you describe the relationship between a character and his or her setting?  | <b>STR 3.A</b> – Identify a structural interruption in the story (foreshadowing, in medias res, flashbacks, etc.). How does this interruption enhance the plot? |
| <b>STR 3.A</b> – What pacing is employed in this story (does it move in real time or are their increases or decreases in tempo)? How does this narrative pacing effect the story? | <b>STR 3.B</b> – Identify a break in narrative sequence or plot order. What is the relationship between this narrative break and the text as a whole?           |
| <b>STR 3.C</b> – Consider the text’s structural arrangement as a whole (pacing, chronology, divisions, shifts, etc.). What is the function or effect of this structure?           | <b>STR 3.D</b> – Identify a moment of shift, contrast, or juxtaposition. How does this highlight character traits in the protagonist or antagonist?             |
| <b>STR 3.D</b> – How does a moment of irony enhance the plot for the reader?  | <b>STR 3.D</b> – How does a plot’s paradox reveal a hidden or unexpected idea in the text?  |
| <b>STR 3.E</b> – Explain how a series of events introduce the central conflict of the text. How does each event build on that conflict?   | <b>STR 3.E</b> – Explain how the author uses specific plot events to establish suspense.  |
| <b>STR 3.E</b> – Identify how a single moment in the text contributes to the overall meaning or significance of the work as a whole?  | <b>STR 3.F</b> – Identify a conflict from the plot that arises from competing values between the protagonist and someone or something else.                     |
| <b>STR 3.F</b> – How does the plot’s resolution present a moment of catharsis for the reader?   | <b>STR 3.F</b> – How does a conflict contribute to a broader or more significant meaning of the work as a whole?  |
| <b>NAR 4.A</b> – Identify and describe the narrator of the text. How would you describe his or her narrative perspective?   | <b>NAR 4.B</b> – Identify the point of view used in the text. Why would the author employ this point of view?   |
| <b>NAR 4.C</b> – The author uses subtle devices such as specific diction, syntax, or imagery to reveal the narrative perspective. Provide an example of this.                     | <b>NAR 4.C</b> – Provide an example of the narration revealing a personal bias, motivation, or deeper understanding.  |
| <b>NAR 4.C</b> – How would you describe the narrator’s tone towards various events in the text?   | <b>NAR 4.D</b> – To what degree is this narrator reliable? What details support this level of reliability?  |

Discussion Questions for Literature

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>SET 2.C</b> – How would you describe the relationship between a character and his or her setting?</p>  | <p><b>STR 3.A</b> – Identify a structural interruption in the story (foreshadowing, in medias res, flashbacks, etc.). How does this interruption enhance the plot?</p> |
| <p><b>STR 3.A</b> – What pacing is employed in this story (does it move in real time or are their increases or decreases in tempo)? How does this narrative pacing effect the story?</p> | <p><b>STR 3.B</b> – Identify a break in narrative sequence or plot order. What is the relationship between this narrative break and the text as a whole?</p>           |
| <p><b>STR 3.C</b> – Consider the text’s structural arrangement as a whole (pacing, chronology, divisions, shifts, etc.). What is the function or effect of this structure?</p>           | <p><b>STR 3.D</b> – Identify a moment of shift, contrast, or juxtaposition. How does this highlight character traits in the protagonist or antagonist?</p>             |
| <p><b>STR 3.D</b> – How does a moment of irony enhance the plot for the reader?</p>  | <p><b>STR 3.D</b> – How does a plot’s paradox reveal a hidden or unexpected idea in the text?</p>  |
| <p><b>STR 3.E</b> – Explain how a series of events introduce the central conflict of the text. How does each event build on that conflict?</p>   | <p><b>STR 3.E</b> – Explain how the author uses specific plot events to establish suspense.</p>  |
| <p><b>STR 3.E</b> – Identify how a single moment in the text contributes to the overall meaning or significance of the work as a whole?</p>  | <p><b>STR 3.F</b> – Identify a conflict from the plot that arises from competing values between the protagonist and someone or something else.</p>                     |
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| <p><b>NAR 4.A</b> – Identify and describe the narrator of the text. How would you describe his or her narrative perspective?</p>   | <p><b>NAR 4.B</b> – Identify the point of view used in the text. Why would the author employ this point of view?</p>   |
| <p><b>NAR 4.C</b> – The author uses subtle devices such as specific diction, syntax, or imagery to reveal the narrative perspective. Provide an example of this.</p>                     | <p><b>NAR 4.C</b> – Provide an example of the narration revealing a personal bias, motivation, or deeper understanding.</p>  |
| <p><b>NAR 4.C</b> – How would you describe the narrator’s tone towards various events in the text?</p>   | <p><b>NAR 4.D</b> – To what degree is this narrator reliable? What details support this level of reliability?</p>  |



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