COSTA’S LEVELS OF QUESTIONING

LEVEL 1 (Lower-Order Thinking: Comprehension)

The reader can find the answer to a question within the text. The reader can “put his finger on the answer” in one spot. These are right and wrong answers.

Define

Describe

Identify

Complete

List

Name

Recite

Observe

Select

LEVEL 2 (Inferencing/Making Text Connections)

The reader infers answers from what the text states, possibly in several places.

Sort

Distinguish

Compare

Contrast

Synthesize

Analyze

Group

Infer

LEVEL 3 (Higher-Order Thinking: Application)

The reader thinks beyond what the text states based on prior experiences or knowledge. There is not necessarily a right or wrong answer, but some answers are better than others.

Apply

Evaluate

Hypothesize

Imagine

Judge

If/Then

Predict

Speculate

**SOURCE:** *Combs, N. (n.d.). Arthur Costa’s levels. Retrieved from https://www.sps186.org/downloads/basic/274780/Costa%20and%20Blooms.pdf*