

CREATING OPEN QUESTIONS

Creating Open Questions in Math

Turn a Question Around

- The answer is 18—what is the question?
- I counted something in our room. There were exactly 4. What might I have counted?

Ask for Similarities and Differences

- How are the numbers 22 and 33 alike? How are they different?
- Half the people in a family are males. What might a drawing of the family look like?

Replace a Number with a Blank

- There are 25 students in the class. 11 were boys and the rest were girls. How many girls were in the class?
- There are 25 students in our class. Some of them are boys and some are girls. How many boys and girls are there?

Ask for a Number Sentence

- Students create a number sentence that includes certain words and numbers.
 - Use 3 and 4 along with the words “and” and “more.”
- Students use a number sentence to show what happened in a math story.

Change the Question

- Instead of, “What number has 3 hundreds, 2 tens, and 6 ones?”
- Ask, “You have 11 base ten blocks. What numbers can you create?”

Use Parallel Tasks

- An object has a length of 5 paper clips. What might it be?
- An object has a length greater than 5 paper clips. What might it be?

Variations on an Open Question

- A two digit number has more tens than ones. What could the number be? How do you know the number is correct?
- Color only the numbers on the hundreds chart that show more tens than ones.

Examples of Open Questions for Language Arts:

- What character(s) in this book would get along well with the character(s) in another book?
- Compare and contrast two characters.
- Who does _____ remind you of? Why?
- Who are the minor characters? Why are they important to the story?
- Do you think a character behaves responsibly? Why? Why Not?
- Why did _____ choose _____?
- What are _____ (characters') strengths?
- What are _____ (characters') weaknesses?
- What do you think about _____? Why?
- What would you recommend to _____? Why?
- Would you have done something differently than _____? Why? Why Not?
- What happened because of what _____ did?
- What problems did _____ have?
- Does _____ (character) change from the beginning of the book to the end? How?

What, Where, Why, When, and How Open Questions

- What do you think will happen next?
- What is the author trying to tell you in this book?
- What things in the book are similar to your own?
- What would have changed if ___ was different?
- If you could change the title, what would it be? Why?

- Where were you confused?
- Where did you learn something new?
- Compare and contrast the setting to where you live.

- Why do you think...?
- Why did _____ do _____?
- Why is the book titled _____?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?

- When did you get an “ah ha” moment? Why?
- When did you have strong feelings as you were reading? Why?
- When did the story take place? How do you know?

- How would you have changed the ending? Why?
- How is the setting of this book like the setting of another book?
- How is a character in this book like the character in another book?
- How does _____ (character name) overcome the problem?

Einstein's Thinking:

"The important thing is not to stop questioning!" Albert Einstein