

ELA Types of Questions and Strategies

Type of Question	Examples	Strategies
Main Idea <i>Main idea questions ask you to tell what a story or passage is mostly about.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the main idea of this story? • What is this story mostly about? • What would be a good title for this story? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main idea has to be talked about throughout the whole passage (usually in the beginning, middle, and end). • The main idea cannot be something that is only mentioned in one small part of the piece.
Theme <i>The theme of a story is the lesson that the author wants you to learn after reading the story. (In a fable this is called the moral of the story).</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the theme of this story? • What lesson is taught in this folktale? • What is the moral of this fable? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to think about what you could learn from the story, or what the main character learned from the story (the lesson is often taught at the end of the story)
Details <i>Detail questions will have specific answers right in the text.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How old was Bessie when she met Ma Rainey? • How many players are on a modern women's lacrosse team? • Who gave Jennifer Dewey a ride to the bus station? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After reading the question, go back and skim the text, find the answer, and underline it. • Look for key words when you are skimming
Sequencing Sequence questions ask you to put things in the same order in which they happened. Sometimes they will ask you to fill in an empty box in a graphic organizer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which event happened first? • What did Ted want right after they got to the zoo? • Which event belongs in the empty box? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for the specific events that they are asking about. See what order they happen in. • Look for key words like before and after, first and last • Put the events in an order that makes sense

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Vocabulary Vocabulary questions will ask you to define a challenging word that you may not know. *You may not have even seen the word before, but that does not mean you won't be able to answer the question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does <i>ancient</i> mean? • What does the word <i>condition</i> mean? • What does <i>range</i> mean in this sentence? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for the sentence with the word in it (it will always be in the text some where) • Read the sentence that the word is in, and the sentence before and after it. • If you think you know the definition, plug it into the sentence right where the vocabulary word was and see if it makes sense.
Inference/ Prediction Inference and prediction questions don't have the answers right there for you in the text. They will ask you to take the information in the text, use your brain, and figure out the answer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why isn't Dad smiling at the end of The Trouble with Getting Even? • Do you think Clara and Mark from The Van Gogh Cafe, would help a hungry, homeless person? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To answer an inference/ prediction question, look for clues in the text that will help you decide what answer makes the most sense.
Cause and Effect Cause and effect questions ask you how one event or action leads to another	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What caused Jennifer to run away from home? • In the Empty Pot what happened to the seeds after the Emperor boiled them? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for the events that the question talks about and try to see which event might have caused the other.

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Fact vs. Opinion Fact- A fact is something that is known to be true. Opinion- an opinion is one person's thought or feeling. Someone else may not agree with this opinion.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the question asks you for a fact, make sure your answer is always true and can be proven• If the question asks for an opinion, look for a thought or feeling (it could be the author's thought or feeling)