Bloom's Key Words & Question Starters

Bloom's Question Starter List – This list moves through 6 levels of questions. The first three levels are considered lower order questions; the final three levels are considered higher order. Higher order questions are what we use for Critical Thinking and Creative Problem Solving.

Level 1: Remember – Recalling Information

- **List of keywords**: Recognize, List, Describe, Retrieve, Name, Find, Match, Recall, Select, Label, Define, Tell
- **List of Question Starters**:
    - What is...?
    - Who was it that...?
    - Can you name...?
    - What happened after...?

Level 2: Understand – Demonstrate an understanding of facts, concepts and ideas

- List of keywords: Compare, Contrast, Demonstrate, Describe, Interpret, Explain, Extend, Illustrate, Infer, Outline, Relate, Rephrase, Translate, Summarize, Show, Classify
- List of Question Starters:
    - How would you explain...?
    - How could you summarize....?
    - What generalizations can you make about…?
    - Can you clarify...?
    - Who do you think...?
    - What was the big idea, theme during...?

Level 3: Apply – Solve problems by applying knowledge, facts, techniques and rules in a unique way

- List of keywords: Apply, Build, Choose, Construct, Demonstrate, Develop, Draw, Experiment with, Illustrate, Interview, Make use of, Model, Organize, Plan, Select, Solve, Utilize
- List of Question Starters:
    - Do you know of another instance where...?
    - How are certain characters similar or different?
    - How are the belief systems and values presented?
    - What questions would you ask of...?
    - Can you illustrate...?
    - What choice does ... face?

Level 4: Analyze – Breaking information into parts to explore connections and relationships

- List of keywords: Analyze, Categorize, Classify, Compare, Contrast, Discover, Divide, Examine, Group, Inspect, Sequence, Simplify, Make Distinctions, Relationships, Function, Assume
- List of Question Starters:
    - Which events could not have happened?
    - If ... happened, what might the ending have been?
    - How is... similar to...?
    - Can you distinguish between...?
    - What was the turning point?
    - What was the problem with...?
    - Why did... changes occur?

Level 5: Evaluate – Justifying or defending a position or course of action

- List of keywords: Award, Choose, Defend, Determine, Evaluate, Judge, Justify, Measure, Compare, Mark, Rate, Recommend, Select, Agree, Appraise, Prioritize, Support, Prove, Disprove. Assess, Influence, Value
- List of Question Starters:
    - Judge the value of...
    - Can you defend the character's position about...?
    - Do you think... is a good or bad thing?
    - Do you believe...?
    - What are the consequences...?
    - Why did the character choose...?
    - How can you determine the character's motivation when...?

Level 6: Create – Generating new ideas, products or ways of viewing things

- List of keywords: Design, Construct, Produce, Invent, Combine, Compile, Develop, Formulate, Imagine, Modify, Change, Improve, Elaborate, Plan, Propose, Solve
- List of Question Starters:
    - What would happen if...?
    - Can you see a possible solution to...?
    - Do you agree with the actions?...with the outcomes?
    - What is your opinion of...?
    - What do you imagine would have been the outcome if... had made a different choice?
    - What would you cite to defend the actions of...?

(Source: Pohl, *Learning to Think, Thinking to Learn*)