

Levels of Questions

Level 1 or Factual Question: A factual question has only one correct answer that can be supported with evidence from the text. They ask the reader what the story says.

Sometimes they are explicitly answered in the text.

Ex: Why does Jim run off? Why does Twain use Don Quixote to explain Tom's views?

Sometimes they are inferred from other information in the text.

Ex: Why do Miss Watson and the Widow Douglass take Huck in?

Level 2 or Interpretive Question: An interpretive question has more than one answer that can be supported with evidence from the text. They ask the reader to read the text closely and to consider what the story means.

Ex: Does The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn suggest anything about wealth and status? Why does Huck admire nature? Why does Twain pair Huck with Jim for most of the novel?

Level 3 or Evaluative Question: An evaluative question asks us to decide whether we agree with the author's ideas or point of view in light of our own knowledge, values, or life experience. The answer cannot be found in the text as the question asks for your opinion.

Ex: Did Pap get what he deserved? Is Huck a morally sound character?