

Handout

Socratic Seminar Stems

Agree/Disagree

Has anyone else had a similar . . . ?

Who has a different . . . ?

Clarification

I'm not sure I understand . . . ?

Tell me more about . . . ?

Do you see gaps in my reasoning?

Are you taking into account something different from what I have considered?

Support Questions

Can you give us an example of . . . ?

Where in the story . . . ?

What would be a good reason for . . . ?

What is some evidence for . . . ?

Cause and Effect

Why do you think that happened?

How could that have been prevented?

Do you think that would happen that way again? Why?

What are some reasons people . . . ?

Compare / Contrast

How are _____ and _____ alike? Different?

What is that similar to?

Can you think of why this feels different from . . . ?

How does this (poem, book, incident, etc.) remind you of . . . ?

Benefits / Burdens

What are some of the reasons this wouldn't (would) be a good idea?

Would anyone like to speak to the opposite side?

Those are some reasons this would work; what reasons might it not work?

Point of View / Perspective

How might she/he have felt . . . ?

What do you think he/she was thinking when . . . ?

He might not like that, but can you think of someone who would?

_____ has expressed a different opinion. Are there others?

Do you have a different interpretation?

Do you have different conclusions?

How did you arrive at your view?

Structure / Function

If that was the goal, what do you think about . . . (the action, reaction)?

What were her/his choices of how to . . . ?

Why was she/he doing that? (Reply gives reason.) What do you think of that approach?

What better choices could he/she have made?

What rules would we need to make sure . . . ?

Counterexample

Would that still happen if . . . ?

What might have made the difference?

Different Situation

Can you describe a situation that would . . . ?

Suppose _____. Would that still be true? Why or why not?