Text Dependent Questions: Sample Question Starters

- Why does the author…?
- [Identify portion of text] What does this tell you about…?
- Why would the author want to draw attention to that detail?
- The author includes a number of details about _____. Look at each action. What does the author want you to understand about _____?
- What evidence does the author give to support his or her description of _____?
- The author provides a list of _____. What do these _____ have in common?
- Why does the author make a point of saying _____?
- Using evidence from the text, explain why _____ is a good title for this selection.
- [Identify portion of text] What is the author's purpose in using this language?
- Using the (map) and reading the text, what inferences can you draw as to reasons why _____?
- Identify specific details/passages in the text that led you to infer .
- List at least three ways the author has described _____.
- What impact do these descriptions have on _____?
- At what point does the author _____?
- What happened to cause _____?
- Why is this shift to first person important?
- What does (character) do to show _____?
- (Character) and (character) have three very important things in common. What are these?
- What evidence is there in paragraph _____ that _____?
- What text structure(s) does the author use to _____?
- Why is the text structure effective?
- Why was…?
- What instances…?
- How did…?