Perplexing questions...

Powerful, perplexing questions lead to deep and interesting conversations, but knowing what kinds of questions will generate discussion often does not come naturally. Use these guidelines and examples to help you ask questions requiring the higher-order thinking (inferring, determining importance, critically evaluating, forming judgments, applying knowledge, making connections) that will spark exciting dialogue.

- **Elicit more than one-word responses**
  - *What theme is addressed in this section of the book?*

- **Are difficult to answer**
  - *Why do you think the author included __________?*
  - *What was the most important moment in this section?*

- **May ask for the interpretation of a specific line or passage**
  - *What does __________ mean?*
  - *What is the symbolism (deeper meaning) of __________?*
  - *Which interpretation of __________ makes more sense?*

- **Are often “how” or “why” questions**
  - *Why does the protagonist think __________?*
  - *Why did the protagonist __________?*
  - *How will the characters respond to __________?*

- **Generally move the discussion into the abstract (the realm of ideas)**
  - *If __________ is true/right, then __________?*
  - *What are the consequences of the protagonist’s belief that __________?*

- **Connect to the real world**
  - *How does this idea connect to __________?*
  - *How is this character like (or unlike) __________?*

- **Relate to the lives of the participants**
  - *Which character do you relate to the most? How or why?*
  - *Do you agree with the protagonist’s choice?*
  - *Have you experienced __________?*