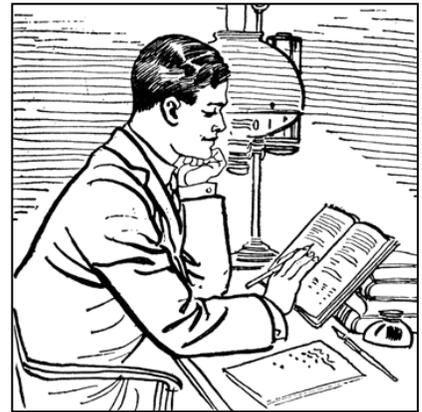


Level 1 Questions, Level 2 Questions, & Level 3 Questions

Level 1 Questions deal with factual information you can find printed in the story / document / whatever. They usually have ONE correct answer.

Examples: Who led Confederate forces at the Battle of Gettysburg? When did Abraham Lincoln die? How many people died of disease or other non-combat causes during the Civil War? Where is Antietam?



Level 2 Questions deal with factual information but can have more than one defensible answer. Although there can be more than one 'good' answer, your answers should be defended or opposed with material FROM the story or related materials.

Examples: Why did the North win the Civil War? Was Lincoln justified in suspending some rights during the war? To what extent was slavery the true cause of the war? How did the North's war aims change over the course of the war and why?

Level 3 Questions deal with ideas beyond the text but which might be prompted by the story / document / whatever. The assigned material is a 'launching pad' for these sorts of questions, but responding to them requires going well beyond the original material.



Examples: How can ANY war be called a "civil" war? Is war ever justified? Did Robert E. Lee go to Heaven? Why don't more people appreciate the sacrifices our brave men and women make for them? Is it true Lincoln's ghost is still haunting the White House?

Asking Good Questions makes our brains think we're more interested than we originally are. We process subsequent information more effectively and retain it better.



**Sometimes It's Helpful To Think About Specific Types of Level Questions,
Or To Think About Them In Different Ways**



Level One Questions often...

- ...clarify vocabulary or basic facts
- ...check for Understanding
- ... ask for more information

It is often difficult to ask or answer Level Two Questions without plenty of Level One information!

Level Two Questions might...

- ...require “Processing” of Information—analyze, synthesize, evaluate, articulate
- ...require making inferences from the text
- ...seek understanding from someone who knows more or has larger perspective
- ...challenge the author (why did you include this but not that, or why was this phrased a certain way?)



Level Two Questions are often the Meat & Potatoes of Social Studies, and require Level One information as support. They seek informed opinions. They are often the stuff we most wish our students could ask, ponder, or answer intelligently! Heck—they're the stuff we wish other adults could ask, ponder, or answer intelligently! ☺



Level Three Questions are useful as...

- ...“Big Picture” Questions, to make connections
- ...interest-builders, discussion-starters, and thought-provokers
- ...ways to get your teacher off topic so you don't have as much work to do

English Teachers love Level Three Questions, but in the Social Studies we pick and choose them very carefully. Usually they're more appropriate for discussions with your parents, pastors, or best friends.