**Examples of Text Dependent Questions from TBQ: Text-Based Questions (Fisher & Frey, Sept. 2014)**

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| **Level 1: Literal Level**  What does the text say? | **Level 2: Structural Level**  How does the text work? |
| **Key Details**   * How does Anne describe Westerbork? * Describe the neighborhood the narrator and his companion live in. * How much does the candy the girl picks out cost? * Who is the narrator? What evidence did you use to deduce that? * What is the role of the eye? * What does Gregor’s mother think about his metamorphosis? * What is the time period of the story? * How does the narrator’s state of mind develop over the course of the story? * What is the relationship between the narrator and the old man? * What are the reasons the narrator gives for killing the old man? * Is the poem taking place in the past or present? * How old is the narrator? * What “event” is taking place? | **Vocabulary**   * What does the saying “paper is more patient than man” mean? How is this relevant to Anne beginning her diary? * Where does the author refer to death? Why is this repeated? * What does the Poe/narrator mean by the word “mad”? * What is the significance of the word “walked” in the first line?   **Structure**   * Based on the subject matter of the poem, why do you think the author chose to set this poem in past tense? * Examine the stanza breaks in the poem. What change has occurred between the two sections? How do you know? * How does the author’s use of symbolism impact the story? * How much time has passed since Gregor’s transformation?   **Author’s Craft**   * What does Gregor’s room symbolize? How does he feel about his room? * How does Poe’s craft (specifically punctuation and repetition) assist in demonstrating the narrator’s state of mind? * What is the impact of Poe’s style on the reader? * How does the author use figurative language to describe the setting to his readers? * How does writing to Kitty change the feeling of the entries for you as a reader? |
| **Level 3: Inferential Level**  What does the text mean? | **Level 4: Action Oriented Level**  What does the text inspire me to do? |
| **Author’s Purpose**   * Why does the author not name the narrator? * What is the author’s attitude toward mental health? What is your evidence? * Who is the author’s real enemy? How does this impact Anne?   **Intertextual Connections**   * Compare “The Tell-Tale Heart” to “The Raven.” How and why does Poe use imagery, symbolism, and metaphors in these texts? * Examine Poe’s use of suspense and tension in “The Tell-Tale Heart” and “The Black Cat.” Discuss their effectiveness given the content of the texts. * Does Anne consider herself to be German in any previous entries? How does she feel about being German in these entries? | **Opinion With Evidence or Argument**   * What is the symbolism of the eye and watch in this story? * Why does the narrator declare his guilt at the end? * Is the narrator mentally stable or not? How do you know? * Anne writes of jokes that people are using such as, “He’s not likely to get a million” or “It only takes one bomb.” How is humor used by Anne and people in general during times of crisis? * “Oranges” and “First Love” both describe young love using very different methods. Which is more effective in portraying the experience of first love? Using evidence from both poems, write an argumentative essay in which you compare and contrast the two poems, proving which one is more successful. |

**PSSA Released Items – ELA Writing Questions**

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| **Grade 6** | **Grade 7** | **Grade 8** |
| **Text-Dependent Analysis**  The passage and the poem address a similar theme. Write an essay analyzing how the passage and the poem develop this theme. Use evidence from both the passage and the poem to support your response.  **Text-Dependent Analysis**  The passage discusses how the body regulates its internal clock. Write an essay analyzing the importance of the body’s clock to people’s everyday lives. Use evidence from the passage to support your response.  **WRITNG PROMPT (NON-TD)**  Think about the time of day that is best for you or someone else to complete a demanding task. It could be early morning, afternoon, evening, or any other  time of day. Think about what the task might be. What time of day is the best for completing this task and why?  Write an argumentative essay for your teacher supporting your claim about which time of day is best for completing the demanding task you have selected. Be sure to use reasons and evidence to develop your argument. | **Text-Dependent Analysis**  The drama focuses on events in the life of Florence Nightingale. Write an essay analyzing how the three-scene structure of the drama emphasizes certain  characteristics of Florence. Use evidence from the drama to support your response.  **Text-Dependent Analysis**  In the letter Adams informs her daughter about the experience of moving to a new city and living in a new home. Write an essay analyzing how Adams responds to her new surroundings. Use evidence from the letter to support your response.  **WRITNG PROMPT (NON-TD)**  Some think that schools should put more focus on a particular area of study. For example, some schools might focus more on science. In these schools, students might take more classes in science, math, and technology. Other schools might focus more on the arts by offering students more opportunities in theater, music, and visual arts. Should schools focus on a particular area of study?  Write an argumentative essay for your teacher supporting your claim about whether schools should or should not focus on a particular area of study. Be sure to use reasons and evidence to develop your argument. | **Text-Dependent Analysis**  The plot of “Joe’s Reward” is driven by specific events that take place. Write an essay analyzing how the passage draws on elements commonly found in myths. Use evidence from the passage to support your response.  **Text-Dependent Analysis**  The editorial focuses on teen use of text messaging. Write an essay analyzing how the author develops the main argument in the editorial. Use evidence from the editorial to support your response.  **WRITNG PROMPT (NON-TD)**  Your school is considering a change in the way class presidents are chosen. Some students want to create a small committee which, in turn, would choose the class president. On the other hand, there are those students who want all students in the class to be able to vote for their choice of class president. Think about which method of choosing the class president you believe is the most effective.  Write an argumentative essay for your teacher stating your claim about whether a small committee of students or all the students in the class should be allowed to choose the class president. Be sure to use reasons and evidence to develop your argument. |

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