

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?