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?