

Discussion Starters

These sentence stems will help you get the conversation going during discussions.

Begin the Conversation

- I noticed...
- One thing I pictured was...
- This reminded me of...
- I liked (or didn't like) the part when....
- I'm wondering why/what...
- I was surprised to see...
- I didn't understand...
- It wasn't fair when....
- My idea changed when...
- I think the big message the author is sending is...
- The text says "_____." This makes me think....

Push the conversation

- I used to think _____, but now I think....
- This is important because...
- So, what you're saying is....
- I agree with you because...
- Could you say more about that?
- What page was that on?
- Can you find a place in the text to support that idea?
- What do you think about that?
- Does anyone have another way of looking at this?
- Is there another book or character this reminds you of?
- Why did that surprise you?
- What makes you say that?
- Does that remind you of anything else we've read?
- How does your idea fit with what we've read so far?
- What do you think the author is really trying to tell us here?
- I hear what you're saying, and I want to add on...
- Something I'm trying to figure out is...