

## Comprehension Skills & Common Syntax/Text Organization Patterns

Sample Text Dependent Questions	Targeted Comprehension Skill	Common Language Patterns with Corresponding Functional Guiding Questions
Where did the character spend his time? Where did most of the story take place?	Setting	Adverbials/Prepositional Phrases - Tell me more about what's happening, where is it happening? when? why? etc
What can you conclude about the character? How did the characters solve their challenges?	Character	Nouns- Who or what is this about? Verbs - What's the person doing? saying? sensing? Adverbials/Prepositional Phrases - Tell me more about what's happening, where is it happening? when? why? etc
What was the biggest difference between ____ and ____? What did _____ have in common with _____?	Compare/Contrast	Noun phrase expansion - Tell me more about the who or what , who? what? which? how many? what are they like? what type? To be verbs - What is being related? Adverbials/Prepositional Phrases - Tell me more about what's happening, where is it happening? when? why? etc Adjectives - how is the who or what being described?
What is the last paragraph mainly about? What is the main idea of the selection?	Main Idea/Details	Theme/rheme - what's the old and new information? How does the clause start? end? Nouns- Who or what is this about? Verbs - What's happening? Adverbials/Prepositional Phrases - Tell me more about what's happening, where is it happening? when? why? etc Lexical cohesion - what's the old information? Text structure - How is the information organized?
What causes _____? What is one reason that _____? What would happen to _____ if _____?	Cause/Effect	Connectors - How are the ideas being connected? Nouns - Who or what is this about? To be verbs - What is being related?
Which activity did the characters most likely do before they _____? About how long did it take from _____ until _____?	Sequencing	Adverbials/Prepositional Phrases - Tell me more about what's happening, where is it happening? when? why? etc Nouns - Who or what is this about? Verbs - What's happening? Connectors - How are the ideas being connected? Sequence Adverbs - When is this happening?
What is the author's main purpose for writing this selection? Why did the author probably include _____?	Author's Purpose	Modals - What words tell us about other possibilities? Text structure - How does the author organize the information? Nouns - Who or what is this about? Verbs - What's happening? Adjectives - how is the who or what being described? Text structure - How is the information organized?
Why is it important to the plot that _____? From the character's actions in the story, you can tell that she _____.	Draw Conclusions	Adjectives - how is the who or what being described? Verbs - What's happening? Noun phrase expansion - Tell me more about the who or what , who? what? which? how many? what are they like? what type?

Adapted from Erickson, Bridget, "Making the content of a language arts benchmark test accessible for low level readers: a functional linguistics approach" (2014). *School of Education Student Capstones and Dissertations*. Paper 543.  
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