Teachers, here is a list of some of my
favorite questions to ask during *reading conferences!*

Fiction ~ Generic Prompts

- What does the title mean?
- What is happening in the part you are reading now?
- Tell me about a strategy you used and how it helped you understand what was happening, or how it helped you understand a word.
- Would you recommend this book? To whom? Why?
- What scene or image has stuck in your brain? Why is that scene significant?
- What genre is this? How do you know?
- Do you think this story could really happen? Explain.
- Which character is most like you? Why? (Use traits.)
- Which character do you like the least? Why? (Use traits.)
- How does the character change in the story?
- How is this book like others you have read?
- Would you enjoy living in the time/setting of the story? Explain.
- Is humor used in the story? Describe.
- Where in the story did you feel sad, worried, frightened, surprised, envious. . .?
- What part is your favorite? Why?
- Did you find any interesting words? What were they?
- Tell student that for the next meeting, preselect a passage to read aloud that gives evidence of: predicting, inferring, visualizing, making connections, determining importance, descriptive language and a key focus of recent instruction

Nonfiction ~ Generic Prompts

- Tell me 2 facts you learned about the topic.
- What is the most memorable idea you learned?
- Describe the author's writing style.
- What questions do you now have?
- What would you change about the book? Why?
- How would you find more information on the same topic?
- Tell me some important words in the text, and what they mean.
- What is your interest in this topic?
- What are the ways the information is presented?
- What parts were hard to understand?
- Find an example of a fact in the book. Find an example of an opinion.
- If you were to write a follow-up to this book, what part of this book would you like to research more in depth?

- Tell me what the different text features show you.
- What section did you want to read first?
- Are there any professions related to this topic? How might the information in this book be useful to people in those professions?
- Biographies: What were the major struggles the individual faced? What character traits do you admire most about this person?
- Tell student that for the next meeting, preselect a passage to read aloud that gives evidence of: predicting, inferring, visualizing, making connections, determining importance, descriptive language, and a key focus of recent instruction

Prompts By Strategy

Concepts About Print ~ For PreK-Beginning Grade 1

- Where do you start reading?
- Put your finger on the first word.
- Which way are you going?
- Can you find the title?

One-To-One Matching/Early Reading Behaviors
- Point to the words and read
- Do the words match?
- Were there the right amount words on the line to match what you said?
- Can you find _____? (Say a known or new word.)

Predicting/Previewing Prompts
- What made you come up with that prediction?
- How have your ideas changed?
- What evidence either confirmed your prediction, or made you change your prediction?
- What do you think might happen next?
- What information from the text did you use to predict?
- Can you make your predictions in a more specific way?
- I like the way you used specific details for evidence.

Detecting & Correcting Errors / Monitoring for Understanding Prompts
- Something wasn't quite right. Can you find your error?
- What do you know that might help?

- I noticed that you were looking at the picture to help you read that word. Good job!
- You looked carefully at the word while you pointed to be sure your voice matched! Good for you!
- How did you know that word was_____?
- I liked how you solved that word!
- I noticed you stopped for a moment. Were you thinking about the story when you fixed that part?
- It might be that. . .if you look again and think. . .could it be anything else?
- Try that again and think about what would make sense.
- You said _____. What's wrong? Did that make sense?
- How could the pictures help you?
- When _____ didn't sound right, you went back to fix it. Good for you!
- That looks like the word, but does that make sense?
- Why did you stop?
- What information do you remember?
- Did the passage make sense?
- Did a word or phrase stump you?
- Reread that, and see if you remember more.
- Look for a character's name, a specific place, etc., to find what to reread.
- Have you previewed the chapter?
- What do you already know about this topic, author, genre?
- You checked that your reading made sense.
- You read the material aloud as if you understood it.
- You checked several ways to make sure you had the right word.
- When _____ didn't sound right, you went back to fix it.
- You reread that part to check that word. Did it work?
- I noticed you were thinking about the story as you were reading. Good thinking!
- Show me where you fixed that problem.
- How did you figure it out? What did you notice?
- Why did you do that?
- You said _____. Then you said _____. Why?
- How did you know what the word was?

Problem Solving New Words
- Is there another word that might work here?
- Look at the beginning. . .ending.

- What do you know that might help you?
- That was almost right. Try that again.
- What good reader strategy could you try here?
- Are there any little words in this word? (chunks)
- What parts (chunks) of the word do you know?
- Reread and get your mouth ready to say the word.
- What is another word that might fit/make sense here?
- Look at the root word/prefix/suffix.
- Read ahead to figure out the meaning of the word.

<u>Expanding Meaning ~ (Quick generic prompts ~ refer to more specific strategies below, and other more generic ones above under Fiction/Nonfiction)</u>

BEFORE READING
- Nonfiction: what 3 questions do you think will be answered?
- Based on the title and pictures, what predictions can you make?

DURING READING
- Has your prediction changed? Why?
- What questions do you have?
- Tell me what the nonfiction text features mean.
- How are the pictures helping you?
- What does the story remind you of?
- What is the main idea of the story?
- Can you recall some specific details?
- Tell me about what you are reading.

AFTER READING
- Retell the story.
- Fiction: What did the author teach you?
- Nonfiction: What was the most important thing that you learned?
- What was the most important even and why?
- What was your favorite part and why?
- What connections did you make?
- Was your prediction confirmed?
- What reading strategies did you use?