Literal, Interpretive, Evaluative, and Universal Questions

Asking and answering questions is an important way to help us understand what we read. There are four different types of questions we can ask and answer (literal, interpretive, evaluative, universal). To make a fair Kahoot game, it is best to ask literal and interpretive questions, and it’s not really fair to ask evaluative and universal questions because the answers might not always be the same for each person, and we might not be correct in saying someone’s answer is “right” or “wrong” in a multiple choice question.

Here is a description of each type of question:

**Literal Question:**

A literal question has a direct answer that is a fact.

Examples:
*Who* invites Summer to their Halloween party?
*What* does Summer do when she wants to leave the Halloween party?

**Interpretive Question:**
Some suggested question starters: Why?

An interpretive question has an answer that can be supported with evidence from the text. Sometimes people may answer differently, but the question could still be right as long as evidence supports the question.

Examples:
*Why* did Summer call her mom at the Halloween party?
*Why* did August like dressing up as a mummy for the Egyptian Tomb project?

**Evaluative Question:**
Some suggested question starters: Do you think? Should?
An evaluative question asks an opinion. An opinion is what a person thinks/feels, and not all people think about situations the same way. An opinion can be supported with evidence to help make it stronger and to persuade others to feel the same way.

Examples:
Do you think Summer should ask other friends to sit with August in the cafeteria? Should August forgive Jack Will?

Universal Question:
Some suggested question starters: How?

A universal question asks for change or is a question that people don’t really have a sure answer for. Universal questions are deeper or more difficult questions about life.

Examples:
How might kids like Julian become some mean? How does someone convince others to be kind?