Students discuss story elements using question cards to guide them.

**MATERIALS:** Books, response questioning cue cards, journals, pencils/markers

1. Create cue cards with questions about a text (e.g., mood, setting, plot, etc.).
2. Divide students into small groups, designating one student as leader. Each group receives one response questioning cue card and is responsible for discussing that aspect of the text.
3. After reading the text, students use their cards to discuss it.
4. Ideas from the discussion can be presented to the whole class or written in journals as a follow-up activity.

### Example:

#### Mood

1. How did you feel while reading the story?
2. What was the:
   - Funniest part?
   - Saddest part?
   - Most exciting part?
3. Describe how the main character felt in the story.

#### Setting

1. Where does the story take place?
2. Tell me what the place was like.
3. Have you ever been to a place like that?
4. Did the story take place a long time ago, right now or in the future?

#### Characters

1. Who are the main characters?
2. Choose one character. Why is this character important in the story?
3. Do any of the characters change during the story?

#### Plot

1. Tell the main things that happened in the story.
2. Can you think of another way the story might have ended?
3. What do you think was the best part of the story? Why?

#### Connections

1. What connections did you make with the conflict or problem in the story?
2. What connections did you make with the characters in the story?
3. What connections did you make with the setting in the story?

#### Visualizing

1. When you picture the characters, what do they look like?
2. When you picture the setting, what is it like?
3. When you picture the action in the story, what do you see?

#### Taking a Stand

1. What do you think is the point of the story?
2. How would you change the characters or setting?
3. Would you like the author to write a sequel? Where would it start?
4. Which parts of the story did you like most?
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