

Figure 12.3 Questions to Consider in Verbal Reasoning

Does the student . . .	Can the student . . .
Understand story elements?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why identifying the initiating event can help a reader understand the story? • Describe the beginning, middle, and end of a story? • Identify the basic elements of the story (characters, plot, setting, problem, and solution)? • Use these elements to retell? • Use the contents page to keep track of story events? • Use a chapter title to make predictions and keep track of story events?
Identify and understand literary devices?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify words or ideas that signal personification? • Recognize alliteration? • Recognize a pun? • Recognize onomatopoeia? • Recognize when authors contrast images? • Recognize understatement? • Use similes and metaphors in their oral and written language? • Relate the use of flashback and foreshadowing to the author's craft?
Understand and analyze characters?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the relationships between characters? • Identify who is speaking in a dialogue? • Identify ways to infer the relationships between and among characters? • Use a character's words and actions to make inferences about the character? • Use dialogue to infer characters' feelings toward one another? • Identify a character's plan for solving a problem? • Relate character to plot? • Explain how the problem and solution affect the character's actions?

Does the student . . .	Can the student . . .
Understand and analyze plot and setting?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the plot? • Recognize how characters influence the plot? • Identify the setting? • State why the setting is essential to the story? • Relate plot and setting to one another?
Understand and analyze theme?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the theme of the story? • Discriminate between plot and theme? • Name other stories with similar themes? • Recognize the universality of major themes? • Relate the author's purpose to the theme?