

Questions for English Language Learners

September 2019 Issue



To the teacher:

These questions are designed to help students respond to what they've read and develop their language skills at the level that's right for them. **Yes/no questions** let them show what they understand about a text with a very simple answer. For slightly more advanced students, **either/or questions** allow them to use language in the question to support their answer. And

for students who are ready to go even further, **short answer questions** prompt them to produce simple answers on their own.

We suggest using these questions with the lower-Lexile version of each article. (Please note: There are no lower-Lexile versions for Read-Aloud Fiction or Readers Theater Plays.) Select the questions that are best for your students, depending on where they are in their acquisition of English. Ask them orally or choose questions to create your own written assignment. If students are ready, prompt them to follow up their answers with more details.

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Out of the Flames

Yes/No Questions

1. Did Katie Weiner survive the Triangle factory fire? *(Yes, she did.)*
2. Did Katie and her family move to New York City from another country? *(Yes, they did.)*
3. Did Katie go to school? *(No, she didn't. She had to work to earn money.)*
4. Did the bosses at the Triangle Waist Company treat employees nicely? *(No, they didn't. They shouted at them and didn't allow them to talk or laugh.)*
5. Did Katie start the fire at the Triangle factory? *(No, it started when a bin of fabric caught on fire.)*
6. Did anyone know about the unsafe conditions at the Triangle factory? *(Yes, city officials had reported them.)*



Either/Or Questions

1. Did Katie's family move to New York City from Russia or from France? *(They moved from Russia.)*
2. Did the employees of Triangle Waist Company earn a lot or a little? *(They earned just a little.)*
3. What was a nickname for the owners of Triangle Factory: Shirtwaist Kings or Sweatshop Lords? *(They were known as the Shirtwaist Kings.)*
4. Were most of the victims of the Triangle fire women or men? *(Most of the victims were women.)*
5. Did Katie jump out of a window or into an elevator to try to escape the burning building? *(She jumped into an elevator.)*
6. Were the owners of the factory punished for being careless or were they left alone? *(They were left alone.)*

Short Answer

Have students answer the **Pause and Think** questions at the end of each section.

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Bravely Going Blind

Yes/No Questions

1. Was Josh born blind? (*No, he wasn't.*)
2. Did Josh feel very sad when he first found out he was going blind? (*Yes, he did.*)
3. Did Josh's family support him and comfort him? (*Yes, they did.*)
4. Did Josh's favorite baseball player pay for his trip to California? (*No, he didn't. Kids from Josh's school helped pay for it.*)
5. Did Josh's basketball team help Josh keep playing as long as he could? (*Yes, they did.*)
6. Does Josh have a YouTube channel with his brother? (*No, he has a YouTube channel with his sister.*)

Either/Or Questions

1. Is Josh an only child or does he have siblings. (*He has seven siblings.*)
2. Did Josh lose his sight because of a disease or because of an accident? (*He lost his sight because of a disease.*)
3. Which of these was on Josh's bucket list: taking a trip to Chicago or going to a St. Louis Cardinals game? (*Going to a St. Louis Cardinals game was on Josh's bucket list.*)
4. Did Josh enjoy his trip to California and Arizona or did he wish that he had stayed home instead? (*He enjoyed his trips. In the article, he says that "It was amazing."*)
5. Did Josh stop traveling so he could focus on playing video games or on playing basketball? (*He stopped traveling so he could focus on playing basketball.*)
6. Can Josh still do schoolwork and play video games, or did he have to stop doing those things? (*He can still do schoolwork and play video games.*)

Short Answer

1. How does Josh feel about his life now? (*He is still getting used to his new life, but he thinks his life is better now than it was last year. He tries not to dwell on things he can't do. He focuses on church, friends and family, and new hobbies.*)
2. How did Josh's friends help him when he was going blind? (*They collected donations so he could go on a big trip with his family. His basketball teammates wore tall socks with stripes to help Josh know who was on his team.*)



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The Fight Over Fortnite/ The Problem With Pinball

Yes/No Questions

1. Is *Fortnite* popular around the world? (*Yes, it is.*)
2. Is Tyler "Ninja" Blevins a famous *Fortnite* player? (*Yes, he is.*)
3. Is Carlos Santana a famous *Fortnite* player? (*No, he isn't. He's a baseball player.*)
4. Does Prince Harry of England think *Fortnite* helps kids learn and grow? (*No, he doesn't. He thinks the game should be banned.*)
5. Was pinball made illegal in New York City in the 1940s? (*Yes, it was.*)
6. Is pinball still illegal in New York City today? (*No, it isn't. It was illegal only until 1976.*)



Either/Or Questions

1. Why did Carlos Santana smash the TV in his team's clubhouse: because he was upset that he lost in *Fortnite* or because he was upset that his team was obsessed with *Fortnite*? (*He was upset that he lost in obsessed with Fortnite.*)
2. How many people play *Fortnite*: about 250 million or about 10 million? (*About 250 million people play Fortnite.*)
3. Does Walt Squire play *Fortnite* with friends or by himself? (*He plays with friends.*)
4. Do you think Walt would support banning *Fortnite* or be against it? (*He would be against banning Fortnite.*)
5. When did Americans first start playing pinball: in the late 1800s or in the 1930s? (*They started playing pinball in the late 1800s.*)
6. Did the mayor of New York City want more kids to play pinball or did he think the game was bad for kids? (*He thought the game was bad for kids.*)

Short Answer

1. How is *Fortnite* similar to pinball? (*Like pinball, Fortnite has become a very popular game for kids. Adults have worried that both games are addictive and bad for young people.*)
2. Describe what is happening in the image on page 28. (*A police officer is taking a pinball machine away from a kid and throwing it into the back of a garbage truck. The kid looks startled.*)