



Blank's Questions for Hansel and Gretel

Blank's Levels of Questioning is a questioning framework developed by Marion Blank, a renowned psychologist. There are four levels of questioning which move from simple, concrete questions to more difficult, abstract questions. Blank's questions encourage development of general language and vocabulary as well as skills in comprehension, reasoning, inferencing, predicting and problem solving (Blank, 2000).

Blank's Levels of Questions - Level 1: Matching Perception

- Focus is on objects in the student's immediate environment and requires concrete thinking.
- Responses can be short or nonverbal (e.g. pointing).
- Understanding of these questions develop around 3 years of age.

Level 1 questions:

- Find one like this. (Matching objects)
- What is this? (Pointing to wood)
- Who is this? (Pointing to Gretel)
- What is the Stepmother doing?
- Say this : "Gretel" (Imitation)
- What did you see? (Remembering items in book)

Blank's Levels of Questions - Level 2: Selective Analysis of Perception

- Questions about details of objects known to a child but are not necessarily visible at time of questioning.
 - Involves analysis such as grouping objects, describing and understanding object functions.
- Understanding of these questions develop around 4 years of age.

Level 2 questions:

What happened?

- Who is Hansel? (Remembering information)
- Describe characteristics of objects: o E.g. What was the Witch's house like?
- How would it smell?
- Identifying object functions: What did Hansel use the pebbles and breadcrumbs for?

Blank's Levels of Questions - Level 3: Reordering Perception

- Questions are not about direct objects.
- The answers require listeners to use their own knowledge and higher order thinking. It requires the listener to make basic predictions, assume the role of another or make generalisations.
- Understanding of these questions develop around 4 ½ years of age.



Level 3 questions:

- What will happen next?
- What is a step mother? (Definition)
- Find one to use with this.
- What could they say when they find out the birds ate the crumbs? (Assuming the role of another person)
- How are Hansel and Gretel the same? (Identifying similarities)

Blank's Levels of Questions - Level 4: Reasoning about perception

- Questions are not about direct objects.
- The answer requires listeners to use reasoning and draw on past experiences. It requires the listener to problem solve, predict, and provide explanations.
- Understanding of these questions develop around 5 years of age.

Level 4 questions:

- What will happen if they can't find their way home? (Predicting)
- Why did Hansel drop crumbs on the ground? (Justifying cause of event)
- What could he have used to find his way home instead ? (Solution)
- Why could he do that (Explaining means to goal)
- How can we tell the stepmother didn't like Hansel and Gretel ? (Explaining observation)
- Why is the witch's house made of sweets? (Explaining construction of objects)