



Blank's Questions for "Tiddler: The Story-Telling Fish"

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 a fish)
- Who is this? (Pointing to Tiddler)
- What is Tiddler doing?
- Say this: "Tiddler" (Imitation)
- What did you see? (Remembering items in book)

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

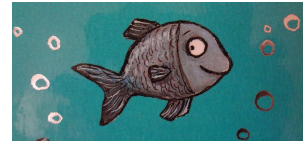
- Questions about details of objects known to a child but are not necessarily visible at time of questioning
- Involves analysis such as grouping objects, describing and understanding object functions
- Understanding of these questions develop around 4 years of age

Level 2 questions:

- What happened?
- Who is Miss Skate? (Remembering information)
- Describe characteristics of objects: E.g. What was the treasure chest like?
- How would it smell?
- Identifying object functions: What did Tiddler do with his fins?

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 1/2 years of age

Level 3 questions:

- What will happen next?
- What is a squid? (Definition)
- Find one to use with this.
- What could Miss Skate say when Tiddler made another excuse for being late? (Assuming the role of another person)
- How are Tiddler and Miss Skate 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 Tiddler tracks down his story? (Predicting)
- Why did the other fishes not believe Tiddler? (Justifying cause of event)
- How can we tell that Tiddler was telling the truth this time? (Explaining observation)