Defining literal, inferential and critical thinking

1. **Literal**: right there questions, answered with facts from the text
2. **Inferential**: using clues from the text and prior knowledge to determine what’s not being stated directly (in one text location- e.g. a sentence or paragraph)
3. **Critical**: Using prior knowledge, facts and inferences from across the text to develop an interpretation; multiple interpretations are acceptable

*Eliciting Literal, inferential and critical thinking:*

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| Open-ended prompts |
| “Tell me more.” |
| “What in the story makes you think that?” |
| “Why is that important?” |
| “Why do you think that?” |
| Repeat question |

