Questioning for Understanding
By Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe

**Explanation**
What is the key idea in__________________________?  
What are examples of__________________________?  
What are characteristics/parts of____________________?  
How did this come about? Why is this so?  
What caused____________________________________? What are the effects of__________________________?  
How might we prove/confirm/justify____________________?  
How is______________________________ connected to____________________?  
What might happen if________________________________?  
What are common misconceptions about____________________?  

**Interpretation**
What is the meaning of_______________________________?  
What are the implications of_____________________________?  
What does___________________________ reveal about__________________________?  
How is_________________________ like_________________________ (analogy/metaphor)?  
How does__________________________ relate to me/us?  
So what? Why does it matter?  

**Application**
How and when can we use this (knowledge/process)?  
How is______________________________ applied in the larger world?  
How might____________________________ help us to____________________?  
How could we use_________________________ to overcome____________________?  

**Perspective**
What are different points of view about____________________?  
How might this look from___________________________’s perspective?  
How is__________________________ similar to/different from____________________?  
What are other possible reactions to____________________?  
What are the strengths and weaknesses of____________________?  
What are the limits of______________________________?  
What is the evidence for____________________________?  
Is the evidence reliable? Sufficient?  

**Empathy**
What would it be like to walk in_____________________________’s shoes?  
How might____________________________ feel about__________________________?  
How might we reach an understanding about__________________________?  
What was_____________________________ trying to make use feel/see?  

**Self-Knowledge**
How do I know___________________________________?  
What are the limits of my knowledge about____________________?  
What are my “blind spots” about_________________________?  
How can I best show______________________________?  
How are my views about________________________ shaped by____________________ (experiences, habits, prejudices, style)?  
What are my strengths and weaknesses in______________________________?


**Literature Circles**

**Discussion Director Role**

*Job Description* – Develops a list of questions for the group to discuss. Use “Questioning for Understanding” guidelines on handout. Write six questions, one from each category, in the guidelines. Write your answer.

**Explanation Question and Answer**

**Interpretation Question and Answer**

**Application Question and Answer**
Perspective Question and Answer

Empathy Question and Answer

Self-Knowledge Question and Answer
Job Description – The Content Connector finds connections between the book and our study of the Civil War. The Connector needs to locate four passages that make reference to the history in which the story is set. This can be new information or it can be a reference to a topic we have discussed in class. Copy the passage and write several sentences that explain the connection to our social studies class.

Passage 1

Passage 2
Literature Circles
Word Wizard Role

Job Description – The Word Wizard chooses words used in the book that are “social studies” words. They are words that might need to be defined in the glossary of a social studies book. Choose the word, write the sentence in which it is found, define the term, and write your own sentence. Choose six words.

Example:

1. Word – volunteers
2. Text use – At first there were so many volunteers that neither army could handle them all.
3. Definition – Volunteer means a person who chooses freely to enter military service.
4. My sentence – The 8th Pennsylvania Regiment was comprised of volunteers.

Word 1

Word 2
Word 3

Word 4

Word 5

Word 6
**Literature Circles**

**Story Summarizer Role**

*Job Description* – The Story Summarizer summarizes this section of the book. Include what is happening to all the main characters. Predict what will happen next.