Developing Powerful Questions

• Read the text

• Read the text and take notes
Photocopy the text so you can write notes on the paper or use sticky notes to paste notes in appropriate places within the text.

• Review the notes

• Write potential questions

• Test the questions
There should be genuine doubt about the answer(s) to the question. If a question is open to different possible answers students will be more willing to share their thoughts. You should have genuine interest in the question. Students will ‘read’ your interest (or lack of) in the question and story. The question should stimulate discussion. The question should create an interest in revisiting the story for evidence. The question should be clear. The participants should easily understand the question. The question should be specific. The question should fit the story and not generic to any story.

• Try the questions in a discussion
1 - Participants must have read or heard (read aloud) the story.
2 - Discussion is focused on the selection everyone has read or heard.
3 - Opinions should be supported with evidence from the story.
4 - Leaders only ask questions - they do not answer them.