

DENSE QUESTION STRATEGY

Overview: Good readers build meaningful links between what they read, think, and the world in which they live. This assignment asks you to generate a basic question that the text can answer, then add to this some component that links what you are reading to your own experiences, thoughts, beliefs, opinions. Eventually you create one single question called a "dense question" about which you can write an essay. In this essay you would write about the intersection between your reading this semester, your life, and the world. Easy stuff! I have provided example questions related to *Catcher in the Rye*, but you should be able to translate these into helpful samples for whatever book you are reading.

Type of Question	Description	Example
TEXT	info found in text	Who is the narrator of the story?
READER	reader's experience, values, ideas	Have you ever felt fed up with everything and just wanted to take off, get away on your own?
WORLD or OTHER LIT.	knowledge of history, other cultures, other literature	What other character--in a book or a movie--would you compare the main character to?
SHADED: TEXT/READER	Combines knowledge of text with reader's own experiences, values, ideas	What characteristics do you share with the main character?
TEXT/WORLD	Combines knowledge of text with knowledge of history and cultures	In what ways is Holden similar to teenagers today? In what ways are today's teenagers different?
TEXT/OTHER LITERATURE	Combines knowledge of text with knowledge of other pieces of literature.	How does Holden's relationship with his sister compare with Esperanza's?
READER/WORLD	Combines knowledge of reader's own experiences with knowledge of other cultures, people.	In what ways are teenagers in other countries similar to American teens? In what ways are they different?
READER/OTHER LITERATURE	Combines knowledge of reader's own experiences with other pieces of literature.	In what ways are you similar and/or different from Holden and Esperanza?
DENSE QUESTION TEXT/READER/WORLD or TEXT/READER/OTHER LIT.	Combines knowledge of all three areas into one DENSE question.	Why does Holden feel alienated and how is that related to what many of today's teens feel? Include in your answer a discussion of the extent to which you do or don't share these same feelings and why.

