OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS FOR LITERATURE RESPONSE

1. Where and when does the story take place? How do you know? If the story took place somewhere else or in a different time, how would it be changed?

2. What incident, problem, conflict, or situation does the author use to get the story started?

3. What does the author do to create suspense, to make you want to read on to find out what happens?

4. Trace the main events of the story. Could you change their order or leave any of them out? Why or why not?

5. Think of a different ending to the story. How would the rest of the story have to be changed to fit the new ending?

6. Did the story end the way you expected it to? What clues did the author offer to prepare you to expect this ending? Did you recognize these clues as important to the story as you were first reading it?

7. Who is the main character of the story? What kind of person is the character? How do you know?

8. Are there any characters that changed in some way during the story? If they changed, how are they different? What changed them? Did it seem believable?

9. Some characters play small but important roles in a story. Name such a character. Why is this character necessary for the story?

10. Who is the teller of the story? How would the story change if someone else in the book or an outside narrator told the story?

11. Does the story as a whole create a certain mood or feeling? What is the mood? How is it created?

12. Did you have strong feelings as you read the story? What makes you think of them as you read the story?

13. What are the main ideas behind the story? What makes you think of them as you read the story?

14. Is this story like any other story you have read or watched? Why?

15. Think about the characters in the story. Are any of them the same type of character that you have met in other stories?

16. What idea of ideas does this story make you think about? How does the author get you to think about this?
17. Do any particular feelings come across in this story? Does the story actually make you think about what it’s like to feel that way? How does the author do this?

18. Is there any character that you know more about than any of the others? Who is this character, and what kind of person is he/she? How does the author reveal the character to you? What works would you use to describe that main character’s feeling in this book?

19. Are there characters other than the main character that are important to the story? Who are they? Why are they important?

20. Is there anything that seems to make this particular author’s work unique and different? If so, what?

21. Did you notice any particular patterns in the form of this book? IF you are reading this book in more than one sitting, are there natural points at which to break off your reading? If so, what are these?

22. Were there any clues that the author built into the story that helped you to anticipate the outcome? If so, what were they? Did you think these clues were important when you read them?

23. Does the story language seem natural for the intent of the story and the various speakers?

24. Every writer creates a make-believe work and peoples it with characters. Even where the world is far different from your own, how does the author make the story seem possible or probable?

25. What questions would you ask if the author were here? Which would be the most important question? How do you think the author might answer it?