

TYPES OF QUESTIONS – QUALITY TALK

“Students’ talk reflects their thinking. When students talk about what they are reading, they reveal their understandings and perspectives, communicate, and refine their ideas, make meaning from texts, and make connections to their own experiences. Thoughtful talk is a treasure trove of information that will help inform your teaching. Students need robust opportunities for varied talk structures within many different instructional contexts.”

Fountas and Pinnell, 2018

Category of Question	Definition
Authentic	Questions that are open-ended without a clear 'right' or 'wrong' answer.
Uptake	Questions which incorporate a previous student’s response.
Analysis/ Generalisation **	Questions which prompt the student to tie ideas together (e.g. “what does the author mean by ...?”) or to break ideas apart (e.g. “Why do you think that?”)
Speculation **	Questions which prompt the student to consider alternative possibilities or to weigh up what might happen about topics or ideas related to the text (e.g. “ <i>what might happen...</i> ” “ <i>What if...</i> ” You often hear the student say words or phrases such as “ <i>if...</i> ,” “ <i>she would...</i> ,” “ <i>I might...</i> ,” “ <i>maybe...</i> ”)
Affective Response	Questions which prompt the student to think about their feelings or their lives in relation to the text (e.g., “What did you feel?”). They elicit an emotional response to a situation.

**Higher Level Thinking Questions