

100 Questions That Promote

Mathematical Discourse

Help students **work together** to make sense of mathematics.

- 1 What **strategy** did you use?
- 2 Do you **agree**?
- 3 Do you **disagree**?
- 4 Would you **ask the rest of the class** that question?
- 5 Could you **share your method** with the class?
- 6 What part of what [student] said **do you understand**?
- 7 Would someone like to **share** ____?
- 8 Can you **convince the rest of us** that your answer makes sense?
- 9 **What do others think** about what [student] said?
- 10 Can someone **retell or restate** [student]'s explanation?
- 11 Did you **work together**? In what way?
- 12 Would anyone like to **add to what was said**?
- 13 Have you **discussed** this with your group? With others?
- 14 Did anyone get a **different answer**?
- 15 **Where** would you go for **help**?
- 16 **Did everybody get a fair chance** to talk, use the manipulatives, or be the recorder?
- 17 How could you help another student **without telling them the answer**?
- 18 **How would you explain** ____ to someone who missed class today?

Help students learn to **reason mathematically**.

- 26 **How did you begin** to think about this problem?
- 27 What is **another way** you could solve this problem?
- 28 How could you **prove** _____?
- 29 Can you **explain how your answer is different from or the same as** [student]'s answer?
- 30 Let's **break the problem into parts**. What would the parts be?
- 31 Can you **explain this part more specifically**?
- 32 Does that **always work**?
- 33 Can you think of a case where that **wouldn't work**?
- 34 How did you **organize** your information? Your thinking?

Help students **evaluate their own processes** and engage in productive peer interaction.

- 35 What do you need to do **next**?
- 36 What have you **accomplished**?
- 37 What are your **strengths and weaknesses**?
- 38 Was your **group participation appropriate and helpful**?

Help students **rely more on themselves** to determine whether something is mathematically correct.

- 19 Is this a **reasonable answer**?
- 20 Does that make **sense**?
- 21 **Why** do you think that? Why is that true?
- 22 Can you **draw a picture or make a model** to show that?
- 23 **How** did you reach that conclusion?
- 24 Does anyone want to **revise** their answer?
- 25 **How were you sure** your answer was right?

Help students with **problem comprehension**.

- 39 What is this problem about? What can you **tell me about it**?
- 40 Do you need to **define or set limits** for the problem?
- 41 How would you **interpret** that?
- 42 Could you **reword that in simpler terms**?
- 43 Is there something that can be **eliminated** or that is **missing**?
- 44 Could you **explain** what the problem is asking?
- 45 What **assumptions** do you have to make?
- 46 What do you **know** about this part?
- 47 Which words were **most important**? Why?

Help students learn to conjecture, invent, and solve problems.

- 48 What would happen if ____?
- 49 Do you see a **pattern**?
- 50 What are some **possibilities** here?
- 51 Where could you find the **information** you need?
- 52 How would you **check your steps** or your answer?
- 53 What **did not work**?
- 54 How is your solution method the **same as or different from** [student]'s method?
- 55 Other than retracing your steps, **how can you determine** if your answers are appropriate?
- 56 How did you **organize** the information? Do you have a **record**?
- 57 How could you solve this using **tables, lists, pictures, diagrams**, etc.?
- 58 What have you tried? What **steps** did you take?
- 59 How would it look if you used this **model** or these **materials**?
- 60 How would you draw a **diagram or make a sketch** to solve the problem?
- 61 Is there **another possible answer**? If so, explain.
- 62 Is there **another way to solve** the problem?
- 63 Is there **another model** you could use to solve the problem?
- 64 Is there anything you've **overlooked**?
- 65 **How did you think** about the problem?
- 66 What was your **estimate or prediction**?
- 67 How **confident** are you in your answer?
- 68 **What else** would you like to know?
- 69 What do you think comes **next**?
- 70 Is the solution **reasonable**, considering the context?
- 71 Did you have a **system**? Explain it.
- 72 Did you have a **strategy**? Explain it.
- 73 Did you have a **design**? Explain it.

Help students learn to connect mathematics, its ideas, and its application.

- 74 What is the **relationship** between ____ and ____?
- 75 Have we ever solved a problem **like this before**?
- 76 What uses of mathematics did you find in the **newspaper** last night?
- 77 What is the **same**?
- 78 What is **different**?
- 79 Did you use skills or build on concepts that were **not necessarily mathematical**?
- 80 Which **skills or concepts** did you use?
- 81 What **ideas** have we explored before that were useful in solving this problem?
- 82 Is there a **pattern**?
- 83 **Where else** would this strategy be useful?
- 84 How does this **relate** to ____?
- 85 Is there a **general rule**?
- 86 Is there a **real-life situation** in which this could be used?
- 87 How would your method work with **other problems**?
- 88 What other problem does this seem to **lead to**?

Help students persevere.

- 89 Have you tried making a **guess**?
- 90 **What else** have you tried?
- 91 Would **another method** work as well or better?
- 92 Is there **another way** to draw, explain, or say that?
- 93 Give me another **related problem**. Is there an easier problem?
- 94 How would you **explain** what you know right now?

Help students focus on the mathematics from activities.

- 95 What was **one thing you learned** (or two, or more)?
- 96 Did you **notice any patterns**? If so, describe them.
- 97 What **mathematics topics** were used in this investigation?
- 98 What were the **mathematical ideas** in this problem?
- 99 What is mathematically **different about these two situations**?
- 100 What are the **variables** in this problem? What stays **constant**?