

**Open Ended Discussion Questions for
Jasmine Can: Creating Self-Confidence
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Teachers, keep in mind that there are many kinds of discussion questions used to engage students in literary experiences. I have chosen to use the following because I, like many of you, value what children are thinking. Moreover, these types of questions are a great way to help students form “life-to-text” and “text-to-life” connections with literature (Cochran-Smith, 1984). They’re also a great way to get lots of student participation because there are no right or wrong answers.

Within Text Questions (Intratextual)

- What does the story Jasmine Can remind you of? Describe the experience.
- What character(s) do you identify with the most in Jasmine Can? Why?
- What character(s) do you identify with the least in Jasmine Can? Why?
- Place yourself in the story Jasmine Can. What is your role in the story? Who are you? What do you do?
- How would you have responded during _____ if you were Jasmine/Chloe/Skye/Mrs. Brennan/Mr. Benson/Jasmine’s mom?
- Do you think Jasmine Can has a good story ending? Why or why not? What would you have done differently?
- In your opinion what parts of the story are funny? Sad? Exciting?
- What do you think the problem in the story was? How was it solved?
- Did you find anything surprising about the characters or events in the story? Explain.
- What parts of the story would you share with a friend?
- As the story unfolded, did you change your mind about any characters? Explain. Was the change based on new information from the story, new insights about the characters, or changes in the character(s) herself/himself?
- Who was your least favorite character in Jasmine Can? Explain why this person was your least favorite.
- What do you think is the most memorable or important part of this story? Why?
 - (Authors Craft)**
 - How do you think the author felt about the characters in the story? Explain.
 - How did the author manipulate your feelings about the characters? Explain.
 - What do you think the author’s message was in Jasmine Can? Explain.
 - Why do you think the author wrote this book? What was her purpose?
 - Do you think you would like to read other books by this author?
 - (Illustrators Craft)**
 - What do you think about the illustrations? Describe your response.
 - Do you think the illustrations are realistic? Do they go with the story?
 - What would you have done differently? What medium would you have used?
 - Do the people in the story look like people you know? Explain your response.

Between Text Questions (Intertextual)

- What types of conversations do you think Jasmine/Chloe/Skye/Mrs. Brennan/Mr. Benson/Jasmine's mom/would have with (select characters from other stories)?
- Compare/contrast Jasmine Can to other stories with similar themes, like *Thank you, Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco and *How Rocket Learned to Read* by Tad Hills.

Beyond Text Questions (Extratextual)

- If you were asked to write a sequel to *Jasmine Can*, what would you write and why?
- Describe what life will be like for Jasmine now that she's a reader.

For more information about these types of discussion questions click on the link.

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