

The ASK Program (Authors Specialists and Knowledge)
The Literature Based Interview Process

1. Have the students read the book.

2. Keep a journal. When you have finished reading for the day, you and your students should individually write down your thoughts. Don't summarize a segment, but tell how it makes you feel. Enter the world of voice journaling.

3. Write questions. When you have finished reading the book and made your final journal entries, it will be time to start writing questions. Students should write the chapter and page number that corresponds with each question. By reviewing their journal entries, the students should be able to write questions about those parts of the story that most interested them.

The purpose of this exercise is to better understand the story in terms of:

- what the story is about
- who the characters are, what they are like
- where the story takes place
- how the author sounds or uses words
- what the broad issues within the book are

4. Show examples. As the teacher, you should also write some example questions to show how it should be done.

5. Place the students in pairs or groups and encourage them to **select their best four questions.**

6. Conduct a round robin elimination process. When your students have selected their best four questions, ask each group to read their questions to the class. Eliminate duplicate questions among the groups.

7. Revise the questions. When the elimination process is completed, each student should have at least two unique questions to ask in the interview, one for the interview and one for a backup question in case their original question was asked by the other classes.

8. Conduct a practice session. Have each student stand and read his or her question in a confident manner. This is very important. This practice session will prepare the students to interview the author or specialist.

9. Ask the questions. On the day of the interview, introduce the author/specialist to the class. Each student should stand and ask his or her question so that the guest can see and hear the student clearly.

***** **PLEASE** listen to the questions that are asked by the other classes that you are sharing the distance learning program with. There are many "REPEATED" questions that are not necessary. It is up to you the teacher to have the students in your class have at least 2 questions each prepared for the program.

10. Debrief after the interview. Take some time after the interview to review and debrief with the students. Ask them what they learned and what they liked about the interview.

11. Write a letter of thanks to the author/specialist per the instructions received in the follow up email from the MISD.

12. Cross-curricular extensions. Teachers should of course relate the literature selection to other curricular areas they wish to include such as the arts, creative or expository writing, poetry, mathematics, science, sports, social studies, etc.