Costa’s Levels of Questioning
What do young children do when they want to know something?

They ask A LOT of questions!
Asking questions about things we don’t know is another way we learn new information.

The higher the level of question, the higher the level of thinking and understanding you achieve.
• In AVID, we will be developing questions for the material that we work with (tutorials and Socratic Seminars).

• It’s true, there is no such thing as a bad question, but some are definitely better than others.

• We want to use questions that require some serious brain activity!!!
There are three levels of questions and “academic vocabulary” you should be familiar with.
Arthur Costa

• Educational researcher

• Divided questions into three categories depending on the quality of the question.

• If we learn to use these categories, we’ll become better thinkers.
What’s the big deal?

• **Learning** takes place when you produce knowledge not *reproduce* it.

• **Recognize a higher-level thinking question:** Colleges want you to be able to dig deeper, use higher level thinking questions.

• Needed for **Tutorials** and **Socratic Seminars**…so we can have a common language
FACTUAL QUESTIONS:

• have only one answer
• answers found in the text
• very concrete
• info is recalled in the exact manner/form it was heard
• short answers (usually 1 or 2 words)
Gathering and recalling information:

Level I questions start with:

- define, describe, identify, list, name
- observe, recite, scan, explain, review
- locate, paraphrase
These are NOT the kind we will use. Don’t waste everyone’s time with these type of questions.
INTERPRETIVE QUESTIONS

• more than one answer w/evidence from the text
• more abstract, one must manipulate the information to find the answer
• examines motives or causes
• involves finding info. that supports generalizations or decision-making
• Short answer or essay
Making sense of the gathered information:

Level II questions start with:

analyze, compare, group, infer, contrast, sequence, illustrate, retell, synthesize, sort, diagram, summarize
These questions require you to think a little harder!!!!!

What is unique about you?

Who was a better leader: George Washington or John Adams?
EVALUATIVE QUESTIONS

• answer goes beyond text
• applying information
• answer depends on personal experiences, values, interpretation of literature, etc.
• asks for judgments to be made from information
• gives opinions about issues, judge validity of ideas
• Essay questions
Applying and evaluating information:

Level III questions start with:

apply, evaluate, hypothesize, imagine, judge, predict, speculate, compose, construct, critique
These questions require you really think, reflect, and write!!!

What is your favorite band and why?

Do you agree that all athletes should be drug-tested?

Which character suffered the most?
Real learning takes place in 
levels II and III.
REVIEW:

- Applying and evaluating information
- Make sense of the information
- Gather and Recall information
To which level do these words belong?

sequence
apply
analyze
list
hypothesize
describe
recite
compare
Ready for some questions a teacher might ask....
1. Describe your study habits from last year.

2. Explain how your study habits from last year will have an impact this year?

3. Generalize how a successful AVID student should study.

2. What could you infer would happen if you study the same as you did last year?

2. Illustrate the story.

3. Imagine if you didn’t study…..
1. How does the poem begin?

3. In your opinion, which of the characters suffered the most?

2. How do the lawyer and doctor differ?

1. Which states seceded from the union?

2. How does the character’s violence reveal a deep-rooted insecurity.

3. Using this equation, how can we find out the number of apple trees in an orchard having 15 rows, 5 trees each.
Let’s try a fairy tale!
How would you feel if you were the Giant?
Retell the story in your own words.
What did Jack trade for the beans?
What is the moral of the story?
What did Jack find at the top of the stalk.
How is Jack’s personality like yours?
How is this fairy tale similar to Cinderella?
How would you solve a similar problem?
Now it’s your turn to write some questions of your own.