Before Your Meeting

On a lined sheet of paper, record four open-ended / opinion questions about the assigned pages that you want to discuss with your group. These should be questions that allow for different perspectives and ideas, which can be supported with evidence from the text. Do **NOT** write factual questions (from *The Bean Trees*: Where does Taylor work? or How does Taylor come to have Turtle?). **Write questions about parts of the text that are ambiguous or unclear. If you can find a definite answer in the text, then it is not a good question.** When asking questions about specific scenes, make sure to include context (the situation, setting and characters involved). You will earn **no credit** for questions that could apply to ANY book (How do you like the book? What do you think of the main character?).

Character Motivation (Remember to focus on what the text does NOT tell us)
- When (describe the scene), what motivates the character to _____?
- After . . . (describe the events leading up to this point), why does (character's name here) want to _____?
- Why would someone _____ (describe a choice or decision a character from your book is faced with or makes)?
- How do you think <u>character name</u> 's _____ (gender, race, religion, economic status, social class, age, marital status, sexual identity, etc.) influences how he/she thinks about _____?
- Why would _____ say, "line from text here" when he/she does not _____?

Evaluate Character Choices
- When (describe scene), do you think <u>Name of character here</u>'s decision to … will add to his/her problems or help resolve them? How or why?
- What is the author's attitude about <u>Name of character here</u>"s choice to _____and how do you know?

Characterization
- What do you think _____Name of character here's biggest flaw or worst trait is and why? What problems have occurred / will occur because of this trait?
- In what ways is _____ a leader? In what ways will Name of character here have to change to become a leader or a better leader?

Compare & Contrast Characters
- Why do you think _____Name of character here is / chooses _____ while _____ Name of character here is / chooses _____?
- How do you think _____ and _____ are similar? In what ways are they different? Is there evidence in the text that suggests the reasons for these similarities and/or differences?
- What causes _____Name of character here to be _____ while _____Name of character here is _____?

Ethical Questions / Values
- Was it morally acceptable for _____ to have… when (describe speaker, setting and situation)?
- What is our ethical responsibility when (describe a situation, choice or event from the text) _____ occurs? How should <u>character's name</u> have responded to this situation?
- Do you think the author / character's name values _____ (peace, equality, tolerance, trust, etc.)? How do you know?
- What is the author's attitude about _____? How can you tell? How does this compare to your own point of view?

Clarifying Questions

- One thing I did not understand was why _____ when (describe speaker, setting & situation)?
- After / While (describe situation), what did it mean when the narrator / name of character / author   says/writes, "quote here" (#)?

Organization / Structure of the Text

- When (describe scene), why do you think the author left out / did not show …
- When (describe the speaker, setting & situation) . . . why did the author end the scene / chapter / book this way?
- When (describe the scene), what questions are left unanswered for the reader? Why do you think the author did not answer these questions?
- After _____, why do you think the author jumps forward to / flashes back to _____?