Making Claims About a Text

Use these sentence starters to make claims (opinions based on evidence) about the text. **Follow each by explaining your ideas and providing evidence** – either quotes or concrete details (a **specific** part of the text you describe as an example).

Quoting Dialogue (what characters say or think):
- When   describe setting & situation**,** name of character says to name of character**,**   "quote" (page #).

Quoting Description (everything else)
- Character's name here is described as "quote here" (page #).
- When / As / While / Right before / After   describe setting & situation**,** "words from the text" (page #).

Setting:
- ❑ The setting influences the main character's_____ (*perspective of the world, values or beliefs)* because ____
- ❑ This story is set during _____ which is significant because _____.
- ❑ The setting adds to the challenges the main character is facing because _____.
- ❑ A significant way *name of character* is affected by the setting is that _____

Compare and Contrast Characters
- ❑ Two characters who seem to have some similarities but are actually very different are _____ and _____. On the one hand, both (describe similarities here). On the other, however, *name of character* is _____ while *name of character* is _____.

Character Traits, Flaws & Strengths
- ❑ One weakness the main character has is _____. This is a problem because _____.
- ❑ A major fear the main character has is ____ because ____. To conquer this fear, he/she is going to have to ___
- ❑ One strength the main character has is _____. This is evident when _____.
- ❑ An internal quality that interferes with _____'s ability to _____ is _____.
- ❑ Being *(stubborn, curious, timid, negative, determined, etc.)* causes _____.
- ❑ A trait *name of character* has that is a strength but also a weakness is _____. Having this trait benefits this character when it comes to _____. However, it is also a disadvantage at times because _____.
- ❑ In some ways *Name of Character* is a *hero / leader* because _____. However, a major character flaw the character has is that_____. The consequence of this is _____.

Point of View:
- ❑ This story is told from the point of view of _____. The benefit of this is that _____ but the downside is _____.
- ❑ The point of view of the story changes from _____ to _____. One reason the author may do this is _____.

Inferences
- ❑ Although the author never says so, the reader can tell that _____ because _____.

Mood / Atmosphere (the effect the author wants a setting or scene to have on the reader)
- ❑ How does the setting or a particular scene feel?
  - o In a scene where (*describe what happens*), the overall feeling is *(dark, depressing, ominous, threatening, oppressive, uplifting, peaceful, tense, chaotic, wild, isolating, warm, serious, etc.)*. What contributes to this mood is _____.
  - o When the story begins, the setting feels _____because _____.
  - o The mood begins to change from _____ to _____ when _____.

Symbols– Look for any objects, animals, places, events, actions or names that might represent a deeper meaning.
- ❑ The author uses _____as a symbol to represent _____ to show that _____.
- ❑ The author uses _____ to symbolize _____ because they both _____.

Identity & Values: What do the main characters value and how do I know? What influences the character's values?

- ❑ The character, _name here_, values _____ _(power, self-discipline, honesty, friendship, loyalty, family, independence, status, material wealth, stability, teamwork, fairness, individuality, justice, inner beauty, etc.)_

- ❑ One influence that shapes _Name of character_'s identity is _(growing up in _____, living in _____, experiencing _____, his/her cultural / religious background, gender, parents, relationship with _____, etc.)_. As a result, this character values _____ . We see this when _____. This is important because _____.

- ❑ While it may not seem obvious that _name of character_ _cares about / believes_ _____, we know deep down _he/she_ really feels _____ because _____.

Character Changes: How is the main character changing or growing?
- ❑ Up until now, this character has always believed _____.
- ❑ In the past, _name of character_ has _____. Now, however, he/she is beginning to _____.
- ❑ For the first time, _name of character_ is realizing that _____. Previously, _name of character_ would have _____.
- ❑ _Name of Character_ experiences a loss of innocence when _he/she_ _(describe something the character sees or hears that is ugly, violent or traumatic that he/she has not experienced before)._
- ❑ Being exposed to _____ causes _Name of Character_ to become _____.

Stereotypes
- ❑ A stereotype the author challenges is the idea that people who are _____ are also _____. The author shows how this is not true when _____.
- ❑ A stereotype _name_ faces is that because _he/she_ is (poor, rich, a child, a teenager, old, female, male, gay, Latino, African American, an athlete, introverted, quiet, smart, beautiful, homeless, etc.) he/she is therefore _____. An example of this is when_____. The author shows how this stereotype is not true by _____.

Gender Roles
- ❑ The author challenges the expectation that because of their gender, _males / females_   _should /are_ _____ _when / by_ _(describe a choice a character makes, how he/she is described, something he/she does, etc.)_
- ❑ Because _name of character_ is _male / female_ _he/she_ is treated_____.
- ❑ Because _name of character_ is _male / female_ _he/she_ is expected to _____.

Internal Struggles & Conflicting Emotions
- ❑ One inner struggle _name of character_ faces is between_____and_____. The reason _he/she_ is torn is because ____.
- ❑ The _name of character_ is torn between two conflicting emotions, feeling _____while also feeling _____.

Character Names
If the character's name is **similar to** or **sounds like** an object, animal, idea, trait, etc. discuss why the author may have selected this name. Does the name have any symbolic meaning? Does it represent any traits or qualities about the character? Does a character's name suggest anything about him or her?

- ❑ _____'s name brings to mind _____. The significance of this is that _____.
- ❑ One reason the author may have named the character _____ is because _____.

The Title of the Book or Chapters
- ❑ In the title, "_Name of Chapter or Book_" the connotations of the word "_____" include _____ and _____. These bring to mind the scene where _(explain how these connotations connect to a specific scene and character)_. The reason the author might have used this title is to _____